

## A collage of images related to global health and development. It includes the US Capitol building, a microscopic view of green cells, two smiling African children, the World Health Organization logo, a scientist using a multi-channel pipette, and a classroom scene with students and a teacher.

ERNEST S. AND FRANCES GILDEA GEORGE  
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## The Big Picture

Snow is melting. Robins are singing. Flowers will soon be in bloom. At UAlbany, however, it's not really spring until Fountain Day arrives. This year, the University community will celebrate its unique vernal rite on April 25, when food, fun (and, of course, the uptown campus fountains, which will be switched on for the first time this year) become the order of the day. We look forward to Fountain Day – and to the many bright, soft days of spring that will follow!



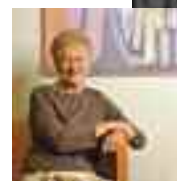
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Gary Gold '70

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Mark Schmidt

# From the Podium and Beyond

By Carol Olechowski

## UAlbany Community Welcomes Powell, McGovern

For the inauguration of its Speakers Series, UAlbany's Student Association enlisted a four-star headliner: former Secretary of State and Gen. (U.S. Army, Ret.) and two-time Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Colin Powell. Hundreds of guests gathered Oct. 10 at SEFCU Arena to listen as the former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shared his observations about domestic and world affairs, leadership and the future.

Two-time presidential candidate George McGovern also visited the University last fall. During "A Conversation With George S. McGovern," hosted by Professor of Political Science Bruce Miroff, the former U.S. senator talked about insights presented in his 2008 book, *Abraham Lincoln*.



Amy Gannon, ATV

In their respective talks at UAlbany, Colin Powell (above) focused on domestic and world affairs, while George McGovern (seated, photo at right) discussed Abraham Lincoln, the subject of his 2008 book.



Mark Schmidt

### CRC Researchers Receive Grants

A total of \$7 million has been presented to Cancer Research Center (CRC) scientists who are exploring the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer.

Awards were made to:

- Thomas Begley: \$2.1 million, National Institutes of Health (NIH); two NIH stimulus grants totaling nearly \$762,000
- Douglas Conklin: \$1.25 million, the National Institutes of Health (NIH); \$246,800, the Susan G. Komen Foundation; \$264,177, the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity.
- Chittibabu Guda: \$946,875, NIH
- JoEllen Welsh: \$996,333 stimulus grant; \$275,000 NIH grant



Thomas Begley



JoEllen Welsh



Douglas Conklin

### CNSE Launches New Undergraduate Major

UAlbany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) has become the first college in the world to offer a comprehensive baccalaureate program in nanoscale science. The B.S. program builds on CNSE's graduate-level program, a global first when it began in September 2004. The curriculum will prepare students for scientific, technical or professional careers in nanotechnology-enabled fields, as well as for graduate study.

### Childs Is Collins Fellow

Professor of Mathematics Lindsay N. Childs, beloved mentor to students and internationally recognized expert in algebraic field theory, was named a Collins Fellow at the 2009 Winter Commencement.



## Dias, Lizotte Hold Interim Posts

James A. Dias, associate professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the School of Public Health and a research scientist at the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center, is serving as UAlbany's interim vice president for Research. Dias is a specialist in biochemical endocrinology; his research focuses on advancing knowledge of the causes and cures for infertility.

Professor and Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center Executive Director Alan Lizotte has been named interim dean of the School of Criminal Justice. Last spring, Lizotte received both a University President's Award for Excellence in Research and the School of Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association's Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Development.



Mark Schmidt

*Alan Lizotte is interim dean of the School of Criminal Justice.*

## Phillips Is Appointed to National Committee

University at Albany Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Susan Phillips has been appointed to a three-year term with the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced in December. NACIQI advises the secretary on accreditation issues and on the eligibility and certification process pertaining to institutions of higher education.

## HPPAE Recognizes Briar-Lawson

Katharine Briar-Lawson, internationally known for her three-plus decades in social work education, aging and social welfare, received the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) Leadership Award for Outstanding Dean. The award, administered by The Social Work Leadership Institute, honors individuals for outstanding leadership in aging education.

## IAW&A Lauds Kennedy

Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Kennedy received the Irish American Writers & Artists' (IAW&A) first Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award last October. The program, held in New York City, featured readings of Kennedy's works by actor Matt Dillon, writer Malachy McCourt and other special guests.

Kennedy is founder and executive director of the New York State Writers Institute.



Mark Schmidt

## Tune In!

If you're tired of the same old TV fare, then tune in to Albany Student Television (ATV) [[www.atvalbany.com](http://www.atvalbany.com)].

Its programming, which focuses on UAlbany people, places and events, is immensely popular with students; in fact, ATV, notes director and senior communication major J.B. Biunno, "has become one of the most successful student organizations at UAlbany. Not only do we create content for channels 16 and 19 on campus and online via ATValbany.com, but we do so with the primary intent of educating students in broadcast journalism and television production."

The current number of student-produced shows – seven – will "grow to 10-12 this spring," adds Biunno.

UAlbany President George Philip watches as an ATV interview is taped.



Amy Gannon, ATV

## From the Podium and Beyond

### NIH Supports CEMHD

A \$6.8 million National Institutes of Health grant will further Center for the Elimination of Health Care Disparities (CEMHD) efforts to improve underrepresented groups' access to health screenings and quality health care in small cities throughout New York. Founded in 2005, CEMHD seeks to improve the health of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and other underrepresented populations by identifying community needs, and developing projects that will reduce and remove barriers to health care and prevention programs. During the past five years, the center has worked with communities in Albany and Amsterdam, N.Y.

*Lawrence Schell directs CEMHD.*



Mark Schmidt

## UAlbany Thinks Green

UAlbany and the State University of New York system have embarked on a new initiative: promoting the reduction of carbon emissions on the nation's roadways – and on campus.

Already, work being done at UAlbany to advance environmental sustainability has attracted notice. Associate Professor of Information Technology Management Sanjay Goel, who researches the

coordination and optimization of traffic signals as a means of minimizing vehicle wait times at intersections, has received corporate and state funding for his efforts at reducing automobile engine idling and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, Goel was one of only three recipients nationwide of a prestigious \$25,000 AT&T Industrial Ecology Faculty Fellowship. His project is also supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; NYSERDA's \$105,945 of funding includes support from the University.

Alternative transportation options for students, faculty and staff, such as hybrid buses and bike and ride-sharing programs, are likewise being explored.



Mark Schmidt



Mark Schmidt

*To underscore their personal commitment and promote environmental sustainability, University President George M. Philip and SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher take a bicycle ride on the uptown campus. Philip and Zimpher speak with Associate Professor Sanjay Goel, whose research attracted a prestigious award from AT&T last year.*

## Grants Support UAlbany Initiatives

University researchers attracting grants recently from a number of prominent funding sources include:

**Assistant Professor Janine M. Jurkowski and Associate Professor Kirsten K. Davison of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior:** designing and implementing an interdisciplinary project aimed at eradicating childhood obesity

**Support:** \$1.1 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant



Mark Schmidt

**Distinguished Professor of Health Policy, Management and Behavior Edward Hannan:** studying long-term survival of cardiac patients undergoing artery bypass grafting (CABG) and stenting with percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI)

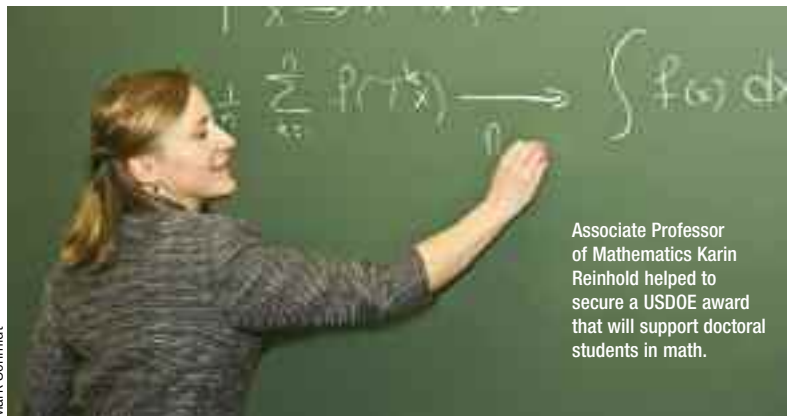
**Support:** \$925,499 ARRA challenge grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

**Center for Financial Market Regulation (CFMR)/interdisciplinary development committee headed by Chair of Computer Science George Berg:** developing curricula that will introduce students to the critical role of computational thinking in financial market oversight and regulation

**Support:** \$800,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support creation of case studies, modules and a series of courses for the curricula

**Department of Mathematics and Statistics:** providing fellowships to students enrolled in the mathematics Ph.D. program

**Support:** \$360,000 award from the U.S Department of Education



Mark Schmidt

Associate Professor of Mathematics Karin Reinhold helped to secure a USDOE award that will support doctoral students in math.



Mark Schmidt

**Professor and Chair of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Edward Fitzgerald:** studying the effects of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) on nervous system and thyroid function in older adults

**Support:** \$176,489 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) from the National Institute on Aging (NIA)

For more news about UAlbany,  
please visit us on the Web at [www.albany.edu](http://www.albany.edu).

# UAlbany Magazine

Spring 2010, Volume 19, Number 1

*UAlbany* magazine is published twice a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University at Albany, State University of New York. Our objective is to produce a lively, informative publication that stimulates pride and interest in UAlbany.

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**Cover:** For a generation, the University at Albany's School of Public Health has educated professionals who trace the causes of disease, prevent epidemics, investigate environmental hazards, conduct life-saving research, impart knowledge in the classroom, and promote legislative policies that improve our health and our lives. As the school observes its 25th anniversary, we at *UAlbany* magazine are pleased to highlight some of the alumni, students and faculty who work so diligently to advance public health practice, policy and scholarship.



# Out and About

By Christine A. Doyle, M.B.A. '04

## Rockefeller College Distinguished Alumni Awards

*Photo: Mark Schmidt*

Jeffrey Straussman, dean of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, was the proud host of the Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony Nov. 19. Pictured, left to right, are award recipients Kevin Bronner '70, '84, '92; Joseph Garba '02, '05; Jennifer Manner '86; Craig Johnson '87, '93; and Richard Ianello.



## Women of Excellence Networking Reception

*Photo: Marty Heitner*

Behind each successful woman is the pursuit of excellence! Last Sept. 22, more than 100 successful UAlbany alumnae gathered with host Stacy J. Kanter '79, partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, to exchange ideas and network. The featured speaker was Elda Di Re '83, an Ernst & Young partner whose expertise in financial and estate planning has been featured in national media outlets. Pictured here is School of Business Dean Donald S. Siegel with, left to right, honorary committee members Debbie Cooper '77; Louise Chazen '77; Ellen Fine Levine '78; Richelle N. Konian '95; Gail M. Berley '73; Kanter; Beth Kaplan '96; Stacy Kass '85; Joan D. Rosenthal '76; Caryn Tuckman '75; and Stacy A. Frank '74.

## Homecoming Weekend

*Photos: Rob Totaro*



Homecoming Weekend, held Oct. 9-11, was packed with events and activities for guests of all ages. Above, left, longtime friends pose for the camera at a reunion event; at right, current students and their families enjoy the football game tailgate party.





## Winter Commencement

*Photo: Island Photography, Inc.*

It was standing-room only at Winter Commencement on Dec. 6 in the SEFCU Arena. The graduating class reflected the rich diversity and many strengths of UAlbany.

◆ Fifty-one percent of the 536 students earning undergraduate degrees were women; the class also included 10 military veterans.

The undergraduates

- came from nine states and 26 countries.
  - ranged in age from 18 to 58, with an average age of 23.
  - earned degrees in 46 different majors.
- ◆ The 364 graduate students, of whom 61 percent were women,
- came from nine states and 31 countries.
  - ranged in age from 22 to 64, with an average age of 30.



## Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner 30th Anniversary

*Photos: Mark Schmidt*

The University at Albany Foundation's 30th Anniversary Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner, held Oct. 22 in Saratoga Springs, was a great success! To celebrate this special occasion, all past laureates were honored, and the Anniversary Laureate Award was bestowed upon former New York Gov. Hugh L. Carey. Accepting the award on his behalf were his children, Nancy Carey Cassidy and Kevin Carey. The proceeds from the event will be used to support The University at Albany Foundation's Campaign for Students, which supports programs for students and ensures their access to the finest higher education experience possible. Special thanks to Morris Massry, event chair, and the numerous event sponsors. For more event photos and information, go to <http://www.albany.edu/uafoundation/107.htm>.



## A View From the Top

*Photos: Marty Heitner*

Jeffrey Black '76 and Lee Ann Black hosted an event Oct. 20 at their Manhattan home, which overlooks Hell's Gate and the Triborough Bridge. The gathering provided an opportunity for alumni and supporters to reconnect and network with one another, and with President George M. Philip, School of Business Dean Donald S. Siegel, and other UAlbany administrators.

# Where Are They Now?

By Carol Olechowski

**Congratulations to Anthony (Tony) Vinciguerra, B.S.'77**, who was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 2009. The Albany native got his start in the broadcasting business in his hometown, where he sold air time for local radio and television stations. Now chairman and CEO of Fox Networks Group, Vinciguerra previously held executive positions with The Hearst Corporation, the CBS television station group, KYW in Philadelphia and WBZ in Boston. Vinciguerra majored in business administration at UAlbany.

Four decades after embarking on a career in the financial industry, Aventura, Fla.,-based financial advisor **Michael A. Shear, B.S.'66**, continues to enjoy working with his clients – many of them referred by family, friends and colleagues who have done business with him. UAlbany helped him to succeed: “... [M]y studies in psychology were invaluable. Courses in public speaking taught me how to address large and small groups with confidence, and my business and economics courses gave me the foundation to understand the basics of the ever-changing business world.” Recently, Wells Fargo Advisors awarded Shear the Premier Advisor designation. Some time ago, he adds, *Financial Planning Magazine* named him one of the top 100 advisors in America.

Albany Preparatory Charter School social worker **Alyssa Lotmore, B.S.W.'07, M.S.W.'08**, says that UAlbany was a great training ground for her career, too. She learned “how to work with adolescents and families, respond in crises, and address mental health and domestic violence issues,” so she feels prepared “to deal with the many unexpected situations that arise each day in an urban middle school. The School of Social Welfare also

taught MACRO (management) coursework, which enables me to collaborate with outside agencies and create quality programs for my students.” At UAlbany, Lotmore received both the Chancellor’s Award for academic excellence and the University President’s Scholar-Athlete Award. The track standout – who competed for a while after graduating and is “still running on my own” – is thinking about returning to school. “A Ph.D. in social

welfare would be nice, although I have an interest in educational administration and policy studies. I love working in the educational setting and would one day like to work in the college setting,” Lotmore notes.



Delegate Alyssa Lotmore was on hand in Tampa last year when Albany was honored as one of 10 All-America cities. The Albany City Hall volunteer hopes her hometown will be selected for the designation again this year.



**You might say that Professor Emerita Sophia Lubensky “ate the dog.”**

The New York City resident has signed a contract with Yale University Press to publish a revised U.S. edition of her *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*. The critically acclaimed reference work, originally published in 1995 by Random House, was a labor of love. In 1981, initially for her own use, Lubensky began recording idiomatic expressions on 3-x-5-inch index cards, later transferring them to computer files for review and editing. Former graduate students, including Marjorie McShane, M.A. and C.A.S.’92, Ph.D.; Rebecca Stanley, M.A. and C.A.S.’85; Erika Haber, B.A.’85, M.A.’87, C.A.S.’88; and Judith VanDyk Hehir, B.A.’78, C.A.S.’84, assisted Lubensky with the effort. Her Languages, Literatures and Cultures colleague Charles Rougle also provided encouragement, as did others, at home and abroad. The *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*, which was also published in Russia in 1997 and 2004, includes such expressions as “She ate the dog.” (That means “She knows her stuff.”)



**Luvins Muffins founder Thaddeus Pinckney, M.B.A.’01, who was featured in the Fall 2008 *UAlbany* (“The Muffin Man”), is always cooking up something new.**

His latest winning recipe: setting aside a portion of the profits realized through the sales of muffins – and now cupcakes, too – to support Hope in the Boat,

a dragon-boat team of Capital Region breast cancer survivors raising awareness of the disease, and funds to fight it. Pinckney’s good works also benefit other causes, including the Salvation Army; Sisters Inc. of Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC); Hannah’s Hope Fund; and the Troy Boys and Girls Club. His customers win all the way around: They enjoy yummy treats and benefit worthy charities. To check out Pinckney’s Web site – and do something nice for others, as well – visit <http://luvinsmuffins/shop/>.



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# Gifts at Work

By Carol Olechowski

## IBM Award Will Support Fraud Signature Project at CCI

With support from a 2009 IBM Open Collaborative Research (OCR) Award, the University's College of Computing and Information (CCI) will attempt to detect fraud in the financial markets.

Through the Fraud Signature Project, Distinguished Teaching Professor S.S. Ravi, Professor Emeritus Daniel Rosenkrantz, Assistant Professor Jeong-Hyon Hwang, and Assistant Professor Siwei Lyu, all of the Department of Computer Science; Associate Professor

of Informatics Jagdish Gangolly; and Wei Fan, Ph.D., of IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center Exploratory Stream Process Group in Hawthorne, N.Y., will examine known examples of fraud and how they were detected. After the researchers have identified the characteristic signatures of known fraud, a formal model that will implement scanning of live, real-time data streams for otherwise unrecognized fraudulent activity will be developed.



### Taking Stock!

Believe in buying low and selling high? That's great, until you look at taxes. Instead, buy low and give high. If you donate appreciated stock, you get a charitable deduction, avoid capital gains tax, and make a difference to UAlbany students and programs. For more information, call 1 (888) 226-5600 or e-mail [schesin@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:schesin@uamail.albany.edu).

## First *Bailey Memorial Scholarship* Awarded

Exactly a year after his death, UAlbany students, faculty and staff remembered Richard Bailey by awarding the first scholarship in his name.

Samuel DeWitt, a student in the combined bachelor's/master's program in criminal justice, received the *Richard Bailey Memorial Scholarship*. "I hope that I, as well as all of the other criminal justice graduates, would be able to carry on in Richard's memory," said DeWitt, who plans a career in law enforcement.

Bailey, who also planned to work in that field, died in October 2008 after a shooting in Albany. His fellow students in the Class of 2009 earmarked their senior gift to seed the scholarship endowment in his memory.

To date, donors have contributed more than \$50,000 to the fund.



Mark Schmidt



RICHARD GROSS, PH.D., B.S.'79

# The Other “Three B’s”

BY CAROL OLECHOWSKI

It's manufactured from, and with, sugars and such readily renewable plant-based oils such as those from palm, corn and soy. It would decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil. It's "green." And it could someday fuel your car.

It's biobased plastic. And Richard Gross, director of the NSF Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocess of Macromolecules at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University (NYU-POLY), invented it.

"After use, bioplastics made from vegetable oil could be converted into a liquid similar to biodiesel," explained Gross. "This is important; the average soldier generates seven pounds of plastic waste a day, including trash from the notorious plastic-wrapped MREs (Meals Ready to Eat)." By using the bioplastic wrapping, "each soldier could turn that trash into one gallon of fuel per day."

Biobased plastic's potential drew the attention of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which awarded Gross \$4 million between 2005 and 2008, "greatly accelerating" his research. Gross and NYU-POLY have since created SyntheZyme LLC, a sustainable chemical company that will commercialize the technologies developed in his laboratories, and develop yeast strains that will convert natural biobased lipids to industrial biobased monomers and biopesticides. In January, SyntheZyme received a \$150,000 National Science Foundation Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to support biopesticide development. Gross, SyntheZyme's chief technical officer, noted: "Biopesticides which will not accumulate in the soil are the fastest growing sector of the pesticide market. We expect to demonstrate economical, highly effective and rapidly biodegradable alternatives to synthetic fungicides."

Gross forged a solid grounding in chemistry at UAlbany, "a great place to go to school." He is deeply grateful to



Professor [Arthur O.] Long, "an amazing, dedicated, very thorough, terrific teacher. Professor Long, and the whole chemistry department, were very supportive and gave me a foundation that has taken me where I am today." Gross, who won the 2003 Presidential Green Chemistry Award, has 350 publications to his credit and has been cited more than 5,000 times by other researchers. His 20 granted and filed applications provided the basis for SyntheZyme LLC.

At UAlbany, Gross, a music minor, "sang in the chorus for three years and took piano lessons, a great honor." With some friends, he started a barbershop quartet that performed on a TV talent show "and did things like walk into the quad cafeterias and start singing. After the first verse, the room was silent, and everyone was listening to us." Gross and roommate Jeff Stein, B.A.'79, became "regulars on the coffeehouse scene, harmonizing and playing together, and occasionally with guests."

After graduation, Gross spent a year in industry. He later earned a Ph.D. from NYU-POLY, where he's taught since 1998, and did postdoctoral work at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



# Dr. Axelrod's VISION

In the 1980s, David Axelrod, M.D., then the New York State Commissioner of Health, collaborated with then-University at Albany President Vincent O'Leary to establish the **School of Public Health**. Affiliated with Albany Medical Center, and now with Bassett Health care, the unique, world-class partnership Axelrod envisioned has flourished, attracting students from all over the world and preparing them for leadership roles in the public health field, both abroad and in the U.S.

EDWARD S. AND FRANCES GILDEA GEORGE  
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## David Axelrod, M.D.



A driving force for innovation in health care and health policy, David Axelrod, M.D., was also the architect of UAlbany's School of Public Health.

Axelrod, a Harvard graduate, worked as a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health prior to joining the staff of the New York State Department of Health in the late 1960s. A decade later, then-Gov. Hugh Carey appointed him health commissioner; Axelrod held that post until ill health forced his retirement in 1991. He passed away three years later at age 59.

Axelrod worked with Vincent O'Leary, then president of the University, to make the School of Public Health a reality. His friends and colleagues established the *Axelrod Fellowship* to honor his memory – and to attract outstanding students to the school.



## Elena Alexeevna Varavikova, M.D., M.P.H. '95

### A Lifetime of Knowledge and Friendship

**W**orried about her language skills and apprehensive about leaving her daughter, Tatiana, and her mother behind in Russia, Elena Alexeevna Varavikova was torn about studying in the United States. But “my mother knew [that enrolling at UAlbany's School of Public Health] was a fantastic opportunity and told me I must go,” recalls Varavikova, a physician with a specialization in infectious diseases and epidemiology. Eventually, the desire to “earn a diploma from the U.S.” and “make stronger arguments that would persuade decision-makers not to privatize and decentralize the national health system in Russia, as the World Bank suggested at the time,” overcame the Moscow Medical Academy graduate's concerns.

Varavikova needn't have worried: A network of “wonderful friends” awaited her arrival at the school. Then-Dean David O. Carpenter; Clinical Associate Professor David Momrow, her mentor and adviser; Dr. Harvey Bernard and his wife, Pat; the Albany-Tula Alliance; and Thaisa and Charles Beach, her ‘American parents,’ who came to her rescue when a visa glitch detained her at Kennedy Airport, all became “wonderful friends.”

As a student in the “very intense” Health Policy and Management program, Varavikova participated in a research project, Health Coverage and Cardiac Mortality in New York State. She also began co-authoring, with Professor Ted Tulchinsky, *The New Public Health: An Introduction for the 21st Century*, later translated into eight languages. The second edition of the widely used textbook was published in 2009.

Varavikova found SPH “uniquely situated to provide the links between theory and practice of public health. Many of the faculty have professional responsibilities, including basic and applied research, in the New York State Department of Health, and students there deal with real, ongoing public health issues.”

After completing additional studies at Harvard and the European Institute of Business Administration in France, Varavikova joined the World Health Organization. Now a lead researcher at the Central Research Institute for Public Health Management and IT Development in Moscow, she is working toward “creating quality health systems and improving public health” in Russia. She also lectures to Ph.D. students.

Last fall, Varavikova reunited in Tula and Moscow with SPH Dean Philip C. Nasca and Clinical Associate Professor Carol Whittaker, “a driving force and an example for me. I am very grateful to Carol.”

### School of Public Health

**Location:** George Education Center, East Campus

**Enrollment:** 420

**Number of Faculty:** 276\*

**Accredited by:** the Council on Education for Public Health

*\*Includes full-time UAlbany faculty, as well as faculty from the New York State Department of Health, other state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and local academic institutions*

**Visit the School of Public Health on the Web at [www.albany.edu/sph/](http://www.albany.edu/sph/).**



## George Sakvarelidze, M.D., M.P.H. '02

### Learning by Example

As a student at the School of Public Health, George Sakvarelidze took *Biostatistics*, *Applied Epidemiology*, *Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases* and other “challenging” courses that would ultimately prove “extremely helpful in my day-to-day work.” At the same time, he was influenced by the example of his professors at the School of Public Health. He found their outlook and dedication as integral to the learning experience as the course content – and just as key to his career success.

Sakvarelidze graduated from the State Medical University of Georgia in 1994 with an M.D., then completed a post-graduate internship in pediatrics (infectious diseases). In 2000, supported by an Edmund Muskie Fellowship,

he enrolled at SPH. After receiving an M.P.H. in epidemiology, he returned to his native country, the Republic of Georgia, and served as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer for UNICEF. During his three years in Tbilisi, “I dealt with health, protection and education programs that entailed collaboration with government and international partners, development of situation analysis related to women and children, planning and management of household surveys, studies and evaluations related to joint UNICEF-government cooperation.”

Later, as regional coordinator for Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys in UNICEF’s Regional Office in Geneva, he coordinated the MICS program for 20 countries in Eastern Europe and

Central Asia. Sakvarelidze’s work there impacted policy decisions related to health and other issues concerning children.

The School of Public Health curriculum prepared Sakvarelidze well for those positions, and for his current work with The Global Fund to Fight

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. As senior technical officer for the Monitoring & Evaluation Support Team, he tracks and analyzes HIV-, TB- and

malaria-related grants in two regions of South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific. The principal component of his work, he notes, is “the ability to provide evidence for informed decision making and advocating for policy change, which, in turn, directly affect people of different ages, origins, and ethnicity or culture.”

**The School of Public Health curriculum prepared Sakvarelidze well for his current work with The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.**

### Public health is a coordinated and committed effort to

- tackle current issues, such as bioterrorism and West Nile virus
- prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- protect against environmental hazards
- prevent violence, health disparities, injuries and obesity
- promote healthy behaviors
- respond to disasters and assist community recovery
- assure the quality and accessibility of health services



George Sakvarelidze



Paata Chikvaidze  
works in WHO's  
Cairo office.

**Paata Chikvaidze, M.D.,  
Ph.D., M.P.H. '05**

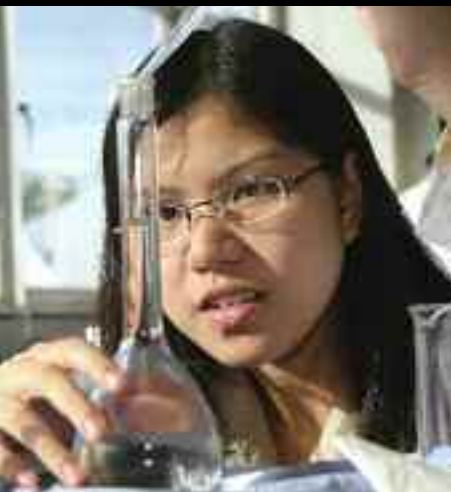
## **“An Honor and a Privilege”**

As a medical liaison for EngenderHealth, a New York City-based international private voluntary organization (PVO), Paata Chikvaidze traveled extensively throughout the former Soviet Union in the 1990s, “lecturing and providing training for reproductive health-service providers, and observing developments and changes in public-sector services, specifically in the health-care field. The difficult, often painful years of change still presented some opportunities for improvements in health-service delivery.”

By 2000, the Republic of Georgia native “was established as a leading professional in my country in the field of reproductive endocrinology and gynecologic surgery.” Simultaneously, Georgia and other post-Soviet countries had “started showing signs of recovery after a deep economic and political crisis.” And Chikvaidze, a Tbilisi State Medical University graduate, was determined to use his “strong interest in public health and policy” to “develop and strengthen the health-care service-delivery system in Georgia, and influence the improvement of women’s health status as a whole, rather than on the individual level through clinical practice.” Meantime, he realized the need “to obtain academic training in public health and health-systems research.”



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Chikvaidze recalls his SPH  
professors as “examples  
of personal excellence in  
teaching and research.”

The Fogarty International Fellowship recipient enrolled in the master's program in health policy and management master's program at SPH. There, he met “Dr. Dale Morse, my point of contact with the Fogarty Program and my mentor.” His professors, including Morse, Timothy Hoff, M. Levy, Shadi Saleh, Barry Sherman, Wendy Weller, Michael Zdeb, Kirsten Davison and Benjamin Shaw, offered “interactive and demanding classes, and also served as examples of personal excellence in teaching and research. It was truly an honor and a privilege to be a student at the school.”

After earning his M.P.H., Chikvaidze returned to Georgia to head the World Bank-sponsored Health Policy Unit at the National Institute of Health. He currently serves as a medical officer in the Women's and Reproductive Health Unit at the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. At work in Cairo, Egypt, Chikvaidze applies “the knowledge and experience I gained at UAlbany's SPH, whether I am giving technical advice to member states in strengthening national maternal health programs, setting the agenda for reproductive health research, or doing program monitoring and evaluation.”



Enkhjin Bavuu, M.D.,  
M.P.H. '02

## Helping “a Whole Nation”

Although he earned an M.D. from the Russian State Medical University in Moscow, Enkhjin Bavuu “never practiced medicine. I went directly into public health.” Why? At most, he reasoned, “a doctor can help 4,000 to 5,000 people a year. A public health professional can help a whole nation.”

In his native Mongolia, Bavuu notes, “there is no strict division between medical and public health fields; most of the public health professionals are doctors.” So, supported by a competitively awarded scholarship from the Open Society Institute's Mongolian Professional Fellowship Program (MPFP), he enrolled at UAlbany's School of Public Health. “My concentration in epidemiology has been very useful in my day-to-day work at Mongolia's Ministry of Health and now, at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It gave me the skills that help me understand a situation,



Enkhjin Bavuu

**“A doctor can help  
4,000 to 5,000 people  
a year. A public health  
professional can help  
a whole nation.”**

gather relevant information to make informed decisions, formulate policies and implement public health programs.”

In his work with the Asia Unit of East Asia and the Pacific Team, Bavuu administers grants that the Geneva-based Global Fund provides to developing countries. He acknowledges that managing a portfolio of \$1.5 billion U.S. “is quite challenging sometimes, but it is always very interesting, because I can see how some additional support provided to national disease-control programs makes a big difference and saves millions of lives. And that is the most fulfilling thing about public health – one decision can affect the lives and health of thousands, or even millions, of people. This is what attracted me to the field of public health when I first joined the Ministry of Health after graduation from a medical school,” observes Bavuu, who is responsible for overseeing Global Fund grants in China.



## Vanessa DeYulius

### "An Incredible Place to Be"

M.P.H. candidate Vanessa DeYulius spent part of last summer in "an incredible place": Tanzania.

The non-profit organization Peercorps, which seeks to improve the lives of Tanzanian women, youth and children via grassroots health and education programs, sponsored her 12-week visit to the East African country. There, DeYulius taught at an orphanage and elementary school in Arusha; "the kids are full of energy and absolutely love me," she noted in an e-mail message to family and friends. Accompanied by a Tanzanian medical student, she also participated in an epidemiological child injury-prevention project, recording the "many things to look out for ... in the field," such as "open sewers, broken electrical wires, wild animals, tall grass and extremely uneven roads." Together, they surveyed more than 2,000 households in Dar es Salaam, "collecting the first data ever in this city regarding childhood injuries." The entire internship experience, which also included teaching health and English to local school-children, fit in well with her studies in social behavior and community health.

Throughout her stay, DeYulius provided lively descriptions of everyday life to the folks back home. She awoke to "my first rooster alarm clock" at 5 a.m. daily; ate a diet rich in rice, beans and vegetables, but very little meat; bathed from a bucket; and slept under a mosquito net. She also survived food poisoning (as well as the

pills to cure it), a few nine-hour bus rides – and numerous marriage proposals. The Cresson, Pa., native had time for a few adventures, too, including safaris through the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, where she snapped numerous pictures of zebras, lions and other wildlife; and a speedboat ride to Zanzibar, where she spent a few days with other Peercorps interns.

Her overall impression? "I think I was supposed to be born in Tanzania! This is truly an incredible place to be, and it's beautiful."

DeYulius will graduate from the School of Public Health this May.



During her internship in Tanzania last summer, Vanessa DeYulius taught at an orphanage and elementary school.



## Lt. Katrina Mosley, M.P.H. '06, USPHS

### Understanding Public Health



It was coincidence that led Katrina Mosley to UAlbany's School of Public Health.

"I visited the campus with my best friend [Zoe Gibson, M.P.H. '06] because she was interested in the school," recalls the Atlanta, Ga., native, who earned a B.S. in biology from Tuskegee University. "Before we left, I had an application in my hand! I had no intention of applying. But

once I discovered the many opportunities, such as state partnerships and field experience, I would have as a student there, I submitted my application. To top it off, I was offered a fellowship!"

At SPH, Mosley studied community health and behavioral science. Commissioned a lieutenant in the United States Public Health Service last July, she is assigned to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's New Orleans District Office in Nashville. Mosley's duty station covers several states, including Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee, so she often travels for her job and for training. Her responsibilities focus primarily

on "conducting inspections of manufacturers of FDA-regulated products."

Mosley is pleased with the opportunities SPH opened to her. "My UAlbany studies have provided me the knowledge base and skill set necessary to carry out many of my duties. Obtaining an M.P.H. allowed me to fully understand the importance of the nation's health, as well as health on the community and individual levels. The communication skills and knowledge gained from my associations with various organizations and agencies while attending the School of Public Health have been tremendous assets," Mosley observes.

– Carol Olechowski

## Agnes Mukasa, M.P.H.'04

### Raising Awareness

As a research scientist with the New York State Department of Health, Agnes Mukasa realizes that public health “is very much a part of everyday life,” and good public health practices benefit everyone.

Growing up in Eastern Africa, Mukasa had firsthand experience with new and recurring challenges – such as malaria, a life-threatening parasitic disease transmitted by mosquitoes – that frequently cropped up on the public health front. People living in tropical climates have learned to reduce malaria morbidity “by using mosquito nets, window screens, and eliminating potential mosquito breeding sites (e.g., stagnant water), near their homes,” explains Mukasa. Similarly, when the first cases of West Nile Virus, another mosquito-borne disease, surfaced in New York in 1999, state and local health departments, advised citizens to keep their yards and other outdoor areas free of standing water.

Born in Uganda and educated in Kenya, Mukasa completed her first degree in biochemistry at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. She returned to Africa, worked in Botswana and Ghana for several years, then enrolled at SPH in 2002 to complement her “multicultural, multilingual public health practical experience with a solid public health educational foundation.”

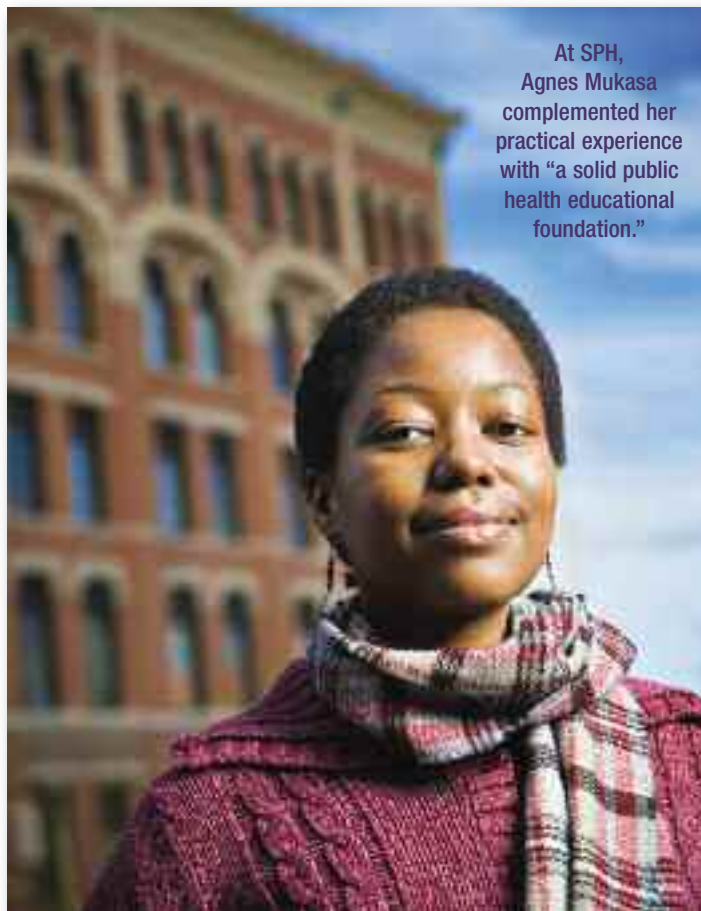
The University offered the most favorable tuition, and the Health Policy, Management and Behavior program allowed me to explore facets of public health that most interested me.”

Mukasa, who represented the School of Public Health Graduate Student Organization to the University at Albany

GSO and was a member of UAlbany’s Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics, enjoyed her time at the school. “I value the professional and personal relationships forged during my time there. I received tremendous support from professors, staff and fellow students – in particular, David O. Carpenter, Dwight Williams, Benjamin Shaw, Carol Whittaker and Lue V. Ellis. Their outstanding academic instruction, mentorship and support gave me the confidence to apply for a position within the health department’s Center for Environmental Health. Five years later, still assigned to the Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment within the center, I am still grateful.

Mukasa’s work at CEH

includes assessing health impacts associated with exposure to pollutants in environmental media and formulating information on exposure reduction strategies for those pollutants. She is also an active member of the Department of Health Intra-Agency Task Force on Women’s Issues.








# A World of Opportunity

**A UAlbany degree opens the way to many career options in the public health field.**

By Amy Halloran, B.A.'90



## Stephen Skwish, B.S.'86, M.S.'89

Studying science was a practical choice for Stephen Skwish, who spent his high school years in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Says Skwish: "I was much more a math person than a science person. But when I looked at schools, I saw that the one program you could go through that guaranteed you a job was the medical sciences."

Skwish worked as a medical technologist in a hospital lab for a year before returning to the University to begin his studies at SPH. The first student to graduate from the school, he defended his thesis in October 1989 and "officially graduated" that December with an M.S. in environmental health and toxicology, then "went right into the pharmaceutical industry, doing drug discovery for kidney

disease. Some of the skill sets I'd developed in school – doing primary cell cultures, actually making primary cells from animals and doing any sort of extended cell culture work – were very desirable at the time in the field." He notes that the industry, given its nature, favored graduates of public health schools.

For 20 years, Skwish has worked for pharmaceutical companies based in New Jersey. While his work began

in labs, its focus shifted. "I started as more of a cell biologist," explains Skwish, currently senior research scientist II at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton. "Now, I'm working at the computer. I moved into screening and automation, and therefore got into the hardware and equipment, and eventually into writing software. I currently work almost purely in informatics, capturing data, analyzing data for the scientists and doing unique visualizations for them."



## Timothy Hoff, B.S.'87, Ph.D.'97

After receiving an undergraduate degree in business administration, Timothy Hoff worked for a decade in hospital administration and health-care consulting, then returned to his *alma mater* to pursue a doctorate at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

"I trained as a sociologist," says the New York City native. "I was really interested in looking at the social structure of medicine and health care, to better understand how the U.S. health system was evolving as a business and what it means for our society. And some of that interest came from working in administration and witnessing the everyday realities firsthand."



For 20 years, Stephen Skwish has worked for pharmaceutical companies based in New Jersey.





Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management Timothy Hoff (standing) incorporates the health care reform debate and other current topics into his classes.

Hoff's book *Practice Under Pressure: Primary Care Physicians and Their Medicine in the 21st Century* (Rutgers University Press, October 2009) explores that general theme. Drawing on interviews with 95 primary care physicians, it potentially serves many audiences, from academics and policy-makers to students. "The book contains lessons for whatever health care reform we enact – how to make it more effective and how to define the role that our primary care system is going to play," adds the author.

Now an associate professor at UAlbany's School of Public Health, Hoff brings a real-world perspective to both his research and teaching by incorporating current topics, such as the health care reform debate, into his classes. "I could be teaching about health care in a business school, or in a school of public administration or policy," he observes. "But I think what's nice about being in a school of public health is the prime focus on trying to improve people's lives through better health. The work being done here, both research and education, is important, because it's linked directly to furthering that goal."



## Charles B. Eaton, M.D., M.S.'90

As a "Sputnik-era" kid raised in Cold Spring, N.Y., Charles "Chuck" Eaton won awards in high school math and science and took part in summer internship programs for future engineers, "but I leaned toward the biological sciences and their application." During college, "I worked summers as an orderly at a local community hospital and enjoyed patient care."

Eaton, who graduated from the University of Rochester in 1973 with a degree in biology, completed his medical studies in 1977 at SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse. He trained as a family physician in rural Virginia and participated in the National Health Service Corps, working with migrant farm workers in Rochester, N.Y., before



Eaton attributes much of his professional success to the training and expertise he received at SPH.

accepting a faculty position in family practice at Albany Medical College in 1982. During his seven years at the college, Eaton rose through the academic ranks to become residency director and director of the sports medicine fellowship. He also developed a research interest in the prevention of heart disease through exercise and lifestyle change.

Eaton enrolled at UAlbany's School of Public Health "to train to do research in preventive cardiology" and continued to work at Albany Medical Center while earning his M.S. in epidemiology. After graduation, "I combined the master's with my medical training and took a faculty position at Brown University School of Medicine, and joined the Pawtucket Heart Health Program investigator team." PHHP, a community-intervention trial, sought to modify health behaviors by encouraging physical activity, healthy diet and smoking cessation.

For the past 19 years, Eaton has been at Brown University School of Medicine, where he attained the rank of professor. He currently directs The Center for Primary Care &

Prevention (CPCP), which seeks to promote research, enrich knowledge, and improve practice in primary care and prevention.

Continuously funded for the past 15 years as an investigator, Eaton is principal investigator for multiple National Institutes of Health-funded studies, including the landmark Women's Health Initiative, and has contributed to more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications. The recipient of several teaching and mentoring awards, he supervises medical students, primary care residents, M.P.H. and Ph.D. students in epidemiology, and junior faculty receiving career-development awards.

Eaton attributes much of his success to the training and expertise he received at SPH: "The faculty and students, many of whom were employees of the New York State Department of Health, were superb."



Charles Eaton



Christina Hansen

## Christina Hansen, M.P.A.'09 Influencing Public Health Policy

Christina Hansen was troubled by the case of Michelle Morse, a cancer-stricken New Hampshire college senior who, in 2005, faced forfeiting her health insurance if she took a doctor-advised medical leave to deal with her illness. Morse's death six months after graduation sparked New Hampshire to pass Michelle's Law, ensuring health coverage for that state's college students fighting serious illnesses.

As a UAlbany School of Public Health graduate student completing a Summer 2008 internship with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Hansen advanced a grassroots effort to bring Michelle's Law to the federal level. She created an "advocacy guidebook" and toolkit to foster volunteer efforts by college students, and she designed a campaign that pushed a petition through the National Collegiate Summit and other events. A federal version of Michelle's Law passed the U.S. Congress; former President George W. Bush signed the legislation in October 2008.

In January 2009, UAlbany's Center for Women in Government and Civil Society named Hansen a Fellow in Public Policy. The fellowship allowed

her to work in the Albany office of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, where she managed a grant to improve electronic fetal monitoring and put together a committee of OB-GYNs to address patient-safety policies.

Hansen, a native of Muscatine, Iowa, relishes other opportunities to use her expertise in maternal and child health and women's health to advance public health policy. Currently, she is a program specialist with the Health Division at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. "My education and experiences through the University at Albany have prepared me to come an influential leader in the field of public health," Hansen says.

— Vincent P. Reda, B.A.'74



Since its founding in the 1960s, UAlbany's Department of Africana Studies has embraced high academic standards, respect for all – and a family atmosphere.

# Quality & Equality

By Greta Petry, M.A.'01





Like their fellow citizens, University at Albany students were focused on Vietnam, civil rights, and the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in the late 1960s. One group, the Black Students Alliance (BSA), saw a need for an educational program that would help them to analyze those issues – and promote student and faculty diversity on campus.

In Fall 1968, the BSA had helped to expand College Opportunities Program (COP) participation from a handful of undergraduates to 134 in the renamed Educational Opportunities Program (EOP). That November, BSA members hoping to garner support for an African-American history course to be taken by all students, rather than by upperclassmen with prerequisites, met with University administrators. When there appeared to be no response by January 1969, a handful of proponents took the case to Evan Revere Collins, then in the final months of his 20-year tenure as University at Albany president. At that session, it became clear to both parties that “the course had not been submitted through the usual [administrative] channels.” Collins told the University Senate on January 20. As a result, “the students were upset; I believe they were justifiably upset,” he added.

The following Monday, as BSA leaders presented the president a formal list of requirements, more than 100 supporters rallied outside the Administration building. The peaceful, yet provocative, demonstration – students had apparently chained the doors to the building – ended with Collins agreeing to present their case to the University Senate. He would also seek creation of a Department of Afro-American Studies by Fall 1969 and an expansion of EOP participation to 300.

Joseph Bowman Jr., B.A.’72, now an associate professor in UAlbany’s School of Education and a member of the New York State Board of Regents, was one of the students who met with Collins. He admits: “We were nervous, probably scared. But we were determined to get the quality education that all students deserved.”

For Lynn Gilmore Canton, B.A.’71, who also pressed for the program, the degree “was an important foundation for my academic future and career. It came at a confusing time in life and provided roots. It helped me learn about myself and my community,” says the New York State deputy comptroller.

Seth Spellman, later a Distinguished Service Professor, served as the department’s first interim chair; Nathan Wright was its first permanent chair. The current faculty roster includes chairwoman and associate professor Marcia E. Sutherland, who is a renowned lecturer on issues affecting people of African heritage and also teaches in the University’s Department of Psychology; Collins Fellows Allen Ballard and Leonard A. Slade Jr., and Kwadwo Sarfoh, who received the 2009 UAlbany President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Service.

The department became known as African and Afro-American Studies in 1974 and Africana Studies in 1990, but

it remains consistently known for excellence. UAlbany’s Africana Studies program was the first in the State University of New York system to grant the master’s degree. The department ranks first in its field nationally for graduate degree conferrals and 10th in undergraduate conferrals. It also boasts a student body that hails from countries all over the world, and graduates who work in the law, education, public service and a host of other professions.

For both students and faculty, “our department is family,” observes Slade, professor and former chair of Africana Studies. “We love one another, nurture one another and value intellectualism.”

The notion of department as family rings true for Tracy-ann Suleiman, M.A.’95: In Sarfoh, she found “a second father” who

pushed her to strive for that elusive “A” and encouraged her to go to Ghana, where she met her husband. Suleiman, who worked for the Smithsonian Institution for several years, notes that Sarfoh “has become a part of my family. My children consider him a grandfather.”

The family theme also resonates with Bowman: “I graduated from Afro-American Studies in 1972. Now my daughter, Amber E. Bowman, is graduating from the department in May.”

To learn more about the Department of Africana Studies, please link to [www.albany.edu/africana/](http://www.albany.edu/africana/).



Nathan Wright was the first permanent chair of Afro-American Studies.

Lorraine Chesin, M.S.W.'77

# PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

By David Brickman

**Y**ou may never have heard of Lorraine Chesin. I hadn't, either, before her unassuming but strong abstract works began appearing a couple of years ago at the annual one-night shows sponsored by Historic Albany Foundation.

In 2008, I bought one of her pieces and had it hanging in the living room before I realized it was both an abstract design and a quite accurate rendering of a view out a downtown window. The same understated, dual-purpose nature of Chesin's paintings was abundantly in evidence a few months ago at a two-person show she shared with photographer Susan Gill Spellmeyer in Albany.

*Uncommon Perspectives* featured six paintings and about a dozen needlepoints by Chesin. Her work has the energetic freshness of a young artist's, but feels much more steeped in time. The needlepoints hark back to the days of '60s macramé, yet their Modernism really harks back much further, to the Arts and Crafts movement. Chesin's paintings are Modernist, too: They closely resemble work by Arshile Gorky and Arthur Dove in their fusion of shape, color, and line to both reveal and conceal their subjects, which are groups of people.

I have no idea how many serious artists have chosen to work in needlepoint – or, for that matter, embroidery, hooked rugs, tapestries or weaving – but I sense in the textile media two key aspects: They are traditionally feminine, and they are an “underdog” (like other “crafts”) in the art world. Chesin makes her own designs and works them into very carefully assembled constructs of colored thread, often incorporating complex striping, and they are representative of typical subjects: landscape, still life, portrait. They may break new ground, but they also tread on familiar ground quite comfortably, and they

do it very well, while hovering exactly halfway between representation and abstraction.

Chesin's paintings are also in that realm, perhaps a couple of shades closer to representation, but they revel so much in the expressiveness of paint and in interesting palette ranges that I find them more visual than meaningful. Still, their often playful titles bear out their connection to the world beyond the studio. *Girl With A Career* may be autobiographical, or it may refer to today's relentless demand for nurses. *Hearts Away*, with its four figures apparently bearing gifts, could have a number of interpretations.

In short, Chesin is both a mature and emerging artist, whose careers have been as multifaceted as her creativity. She retired in 2002 after 10 years as the Rensselaer County Commissioner of Mental Health; before that, she was a social worker, and before that, a high school art teacher. Chesin was 35 when she earned an art degree from Skidmore College; she received her M.S.W. from UAlbany in 1977.

*Lorraine Chesin is married to Sorrell Chesin, Ph.D., associate vice president for University Development at UAlbany.*



David Brickman is a photographer, curator and art critic based in Albany. He blogs about the Capital Region art scene at <http://dbgetvisual.blogspot.com>.





Gary Gold, B.S.'70

# Ask Geoff

By Geoff Williams,  
University at Albany Archivist



In my last column, we covered athletics from the University at Albany's founding as the New York State Normal School to 1906. This installment will cover the years 1907-66 – a time when the school evolved first into a college, and eventually into the University at Albany, one of four State University of New York university centers.

As the institution grew and changed, so did its athletics programs. In 1909, State opened its new campus, which we now call the downtown campus and which included basement space for a gymnasium. While basketball could be practiced there, however, the narrow space and the close placement of supporting columns ruled out competitive play. In 1927, NYSCT President Abram Brubacher complained to then-Gov. Alfred E. Smith that the columns for the planned Page Hall gymnasium were too close to the floor. According to *College of the Empire State* (French and French, 1944), Smith “pounded on

Gift of Thomas Eldred '54 to the Alumni Memorabilia Collection

## TIMELINE:

# Normal College/NYSCT/SUNYA Athletics, 1907-66

**1912:** The first letters are awarded to the women's junior and senior basketball teams.

Intercollegiate baseball, which appears to have disappeared after 1900, makes a comeback, with opponent RPI posting a 14-10 victory over State. Despite the loss, baseball would become a mainstay of the men's intercollegiate athletics program at State for the next 60 years.

**1916:** Football is played for the first time as an intermural sport, with the Upperclassmen posting a 20-0 win over the Freshmen.

**1909:** The men's varsity basketball team plays its first intercollegiate games, competing against Albany Medical College, Union College and two local high schools.

Physical Education is added to the curriculum. Professor Fanny A. Dunsford, A.B., heads the Department of Physical Training.

An Athletic Association is formed to promote all sports, but principally “basket ball.”



Fanny Dunsford

**1914:** State Normal College becomes the New York State College for Teachers (NYSCT).

**1924:** The women's varsity basketball team plays its first two intercollegiate games, losing the first to Russell Sage but defeating Sage 45-32 in a rematch.



Coach Joe Garcia (center) is pictured with the 1952-53 Wrestling Club



his desk and declared that the college would take the gymnasium with posts, or not ... at all.” Whether or not the incident actually occurred that way, it became a legend around campus.

To a great extent, facilities determined the numbers and types of sports played. But other factors, such as a 1930s change to admission standards to ensure that at least one-third of the student body would be male and the post-World War II influx of former GIs, also had an impact. World affairs even played a role. For instance, competition in intermural football and hockey, begun in 1916 and 1917, respectively, was discontinued during World War I. Both sports were later revived, but hockey was dropped in 1921. Football returned as an intercollegiate sport in 1922; played its final season in 1924; returned in the 1940s on an intermural basis; and was reintroduced as a club sport in 1970.

Here’s a look back at the 20th-century evolution of sports and athletics at UAlbany’s predecessor institutions.

This Class of 1926 letter probably belonged to women’s varsity basketball team member Edna Schaefer McAffer.



Members of the hockey team posed for a picture in 1917.



The women’s varsity basketball team first competed in 1924.



The school mascot, the “Pedswin” (or “Pedguin”), is shown on Alpha Pi Alpha’s Homecoming float in 1962.

**1945-49:** Several sports, including women’s swimming and fencing, men’s softball and golf, and bowling, are introduced. Most of the women’s outdoor games are played on Alumni Field, between Pierce and Sage halls. NYSCT expands its sports facilities in 1945 with the acquisition of 10 acres of St. Mary’s Park. The soccer team, formed in 1949, practices there; later, tennis courts will be built at the site. In 1966, the land is sold back to the city for construction of Albany High School.

**1962:** NYSCT becomes the State University of New York at Albany, one of four SUNY university centers.

**1932:** The Girls’/Women’s Athletic Association acquires its own lodge, Camp Johnston in Cambridge, N.Y. The association will own the lodge until 1965.

**1949:** NYSCT’s intercollegiate athletic teams, known as Albany State or the Pedagogues, adopt the “Pedswin” (or “Pedguin”) – designed by Paul Kirsch ’51 – as their mascot.

**1951:** In March, a wrestling team coached by Joseph (Joe) Garcia defeats Albany Business College, 5-1. Garcia goes on to head extremely successful wrestling and soccer programs.

**1966:** SUNYA’s relocation to the uptown campus in western Albany provides additional space for athletic facilities, facilitating the expansion of sports and recreational programs.



Camp Johnston

To submit a question for “Ask Geoff,” e-mail [gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu).

## Last Alum Standing

**If it weren't for UAlbany, I wouldn't have been able to ...**



I can't tell you how many times over the last few years I have heard alumni begin a conversation with those words. I often thought that it would be inspirational for their fellow alumni to hear these exciting stories of success. So, I'd like to issue you a challenge: Submit to the Alumni Association a brief story about how UAlbany helped propel you forward. Items submitted will be posted on our Web page for all alumni to read.

A panel of alumni will review the submissions and choose one essay they feel is the most inspiring. The winning essay will be reprinted in the fall edition of *UAlbany* magazine, and the last alum standing will receive a \$100 gift certificate toward UAlbany apparel at our online merchandise store.

I encourage you to submit a story – no account is too small. I have heard many encouraging stories regarding the smallest gesture made by fellow classmates, staff members and dedicated mentors. Of course, there have also been tales of tireless faculty members, that one life-changing course and research that led to a light-bulb moment. It's my hope that, if you share your story, students – tomorrow's alumni – will feel inspired to take that next step toward their own big breaks.

Your submission must be a maximum of 300 words and submitted by May 31, 2010. You can e-mail your story to [alumniassociation@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@uamail.albany.edu) or mail it to Alumni House, University at Albany, Albany, NY 12222. Start writing – and good luck!

**Lee Serravillo, Executive Director  
UAlbany Alumni Association**

**41** **Vince and Peg Gillen** have moved to a beautiful apartment at 1325 McCarthy II Blvd., Apt. 12, New Bern, NC 28562. No car is needed, as they are transported wherever they need to go. The people are wonderful and friendly. Their daughter and her husband live less than 5 miles away in their new home. Vince celebrated his 91st birthday Oct. 4, and Peg was 93 Nov. 2. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary Nov. 21, 2009.

**Charlie and Marian Quinn** are doing well. **June Casler Haushalter '42** (Ed Casler's widow) has sold her place to move nearer to her children.

**45** **A note from your class councilor:** Greetings to the Class of 1945. Spring 2010 will mark the 65th anniversary of our graduation. It seems that we should celebrate in some way. Your councilors are looking for ideas on how you would like to do this. It would be wonderful to see all of you again, but most of us do not travel easily anymore. Any ideas?

*Class notes councilor: Martha Slingerland,  
[marthas@nycap.rr.com](mailto:marthas@nycap.rr.com)*

**47** **Calvin Zippin** was honored as Person of the Year for 2009 by B'nai B'rith of Greater San Francisco.



Calvin is professor emeritus of epidemiology, School of Medicine, at the University of California in San Francisco.

## 48 *A note from your class*

**councilor: Joan Sittner Sherwood** from Richland, Wash., writes that, at age 83, many of our classmates are experiencing similar problems. She had a fall resulting in three broken ribs, and her husband has gone into a nursing home. Joan has been supported by her children and grandchildren. **Edna Wylie** is living in a retirement community near family in West Chester, Pa. Edna is enjoying all the activities there and also bowls in a community league, is taking a computer course at a local college and plays bridge a couple of times a week. **Arthur Collins**, from Lenox, Mass., continues to serve on the Alumni Association board. The board has honored him for ensuring delivery of the Purchase Prize money (from the Grandma Moses Fund) to the University Museum for its selection for the annual exhibitions of the Mohawk-Hudson Artists Association. The museum has recognized Arthur by allowing him to present the prize, now called the *Dr. Arthur N. Collins '48 Purchase Prize*, each year. Arthur starred as Dr. Abraham in a vampire horror movie, "The Chosen One," which has been released as a DVD. He also will portray a retired grandfather in Teddy Collatos' next film (not yet titled), and has a part in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," which will be shown in April at the UAlbany Performing Arts Center.

**Marge Harrington** and husband Bob are enjoying their seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Marge keeps busy with the local AARP chapter and with gardening during the summer. This past summer, **Gari Paticopoulos** attended a get-together of SUNY alums prior to the game between the Great Danes and the FAU Devils. Most of the attendees were younger than Gari; however, she had a wonderful conversation with Henrietta Saks '29, who was about to celebrate her 100th birthday. **Donald Sayles** has asked how many of the WWII service people who returned to the college after the war and graduated with our class are still alive. Geoff Williams, the University archivist, has done some research; if you are interested in the lists he has uncovered, please e-mail Eleanor Alland (ealland214b@nycap.rr.com). **Ruth Seelbach Elmore** and her husband are

living in a retirement community in Orange City, Fla., about 10 minutes from Stetson University, one of the top music schools in the country, where they attend outstanding symphonies and concerts.

**Justine Maloney McConaughy**, who lives in the same community, remains very active in the music program and is a member of the Spiritual Life Committee. Justine and Ruth dine together at least once a week. They would like to hear from any '48ers traveling near Daytona Beach. **Helen Kisiel Schick** is living in a "nice, safe, worry-free" place in Bay Shore, Long Island. She expects to have a knee replacement soon. Helen is enjoying all 18 of her "clan"; she also serves on the boards of two historical societies; her Bicentennial Committee; and a new group, the West Islip Association.

**Gerhard Weinberg** was presented the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing from the Chicago-based Tawani Foundation. The award recognizes a living author for a body of work that has profoundly enriched the public understanding of American military history. Yours truly (**Eleanor Alland**) traveled on the River Danube in October, visiting Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.

*Class notes councilor: Eleanor Alland, ealland214b@nycap.rr.com*

## 49 *A note from your class*

**councilor: Bob Kittredge**, recipient of the 2009 UAlbany Alumni Association Community Service Award, has undergone long-term rehabilitation from extensive back surgery (five lumbar vertebrae fused together, supported by metal rods). Bob is still hoping to return to tennis playing! Diana, his spouse, received good news when a PET scan pronounced her "cancer free." **Bob Kloepfel** would like to have some e-mail addresses from '49'ers; if you are inclined to share yours, e-mail him at b24j@aol.com. **Tom Lisker**, our sophomore class president, writes that he is still working, hopes to get back to running after a series of health problems, and is still looking for a publisher for his

most recent novel. Tom has published half a dozen books for teenagers with reading problems. He has been married to Liz for 32 years (he calls her "an inspirational, fabulous woman") and has six children. **Joan Rourke McLelland** is the planning and zoning commissioner for Yavapai County, Ariz. Joan also belongs to a coalition of groups trying to get a bill introduced in Congress to have the Coconino Forest lands in the greater Sedona area declared a National Scenic Area. In June, **Leslie Weber O'Heir** accompanied her daughter, son-in-law and grandson to the western United States; the trip included Yellowstone, the

judge for Mechanicville, N.Y. Joe now heads the law department of the School of Business at UAlbany, where he has taught for 30 years. Congratulations to **Abe Trop**, who has completed work on Habitat for Humanity's House No. 41 in Bakersfield, Calif. and has begun work on No. 42. Abe has assisted in 34 of the 41 houses completed, and has also worked on Habitat homes in foreign countries. Congratulations also to **Rose Rosen Ziffer** and husband Phil on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary last Nov. 20. The entire family, including five children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren,



*Students gained valuable insights from experts in the marketing/PR field when three UAlbany alumni hosted a Dinner With a Dozen Danes last October at a local restaurant. Hosts included Robert J. Bellafiore '82 (standing, right), Steven A. Greenberg '82 (standing, second from right) and Seth C. Buchwalter '08 (standing, center).*

Tetons and Mount Rushmore. During Mardi Gras, Leslie visited her grandson, Dr. Matthew Butkus, who teaches medical ethics and philosophy at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La. **Horty Zeilengold Schmierer** and her brother-in-law, Harris Dinkoff, also took a trip west last June; their itinerary included Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and Mount Rushmore. Horty said that because of the rain, the four presidents seemed to be crying. Could this be because of the state of our nation? **Jerry Reisner** says that it is no risk having cataract surgery done by a former student: He gave Dr. George Vukmer an "A" in microbiology. **William Sheehan's** son, Joe, was elected for a third six-year term as city

celebrated this big event by spending Thanksgiving in New York City. **Bonnie Totten Adkins** and Lee celebrated the birth of their first great-grandchild last November. In February, they attended a 10-day work/study program in Texas. The program, sponsored by two Methodist churches — one Hispanic and one Anglo — focuses on border issues on both sides of the border. Would you believe that **Dick Zeller** and **Larry Appleby** have been getting together over the Columbus Day weekend for 62 consecutive years? Larry can now be contacted on Facebook. Congratulations to **Robertson Baker** and Isabel on the birth of their third great-grandchild, Sarah, in December. **Bill Blasberg** is still teaching home schoolers: ten young

## Alumni News and Notes

ladies in a geometry class and five young men in calculus. **Elsa Moberg Cox** keeps busy as moderator of the Presbyterian Women's Group in her church. In September, **Don Dickinson** came east from Phoenix, Ariz., to spend a wonderful week in Westport, N.Y. on Lake Champlain, where his parents were born and raised. Don was accompanied by his six daughters, various sons-in-law and grandchildren. **Jean Pulver Hague** has succeeded in slowing down a bit in her school and college consulting business. During the winter, she goes back and forth between Atlanta and Juno Beach, Fla. **Ellen Fay Harmon**

went back to teaching in 1977 after having 10 children; she taught science at Albany High School until retiring in 1992. With her husband, Tom, she has been reading for the blind and print disabled at their local PBS station. They also are active with Catholic Charities' AIDS Services and other AIDS-related community groups, having lost their son David to the disease in 1995. Ellen says in their "spare" time they keep very busy with their 11 grandchildren. In October, **Bob Kaiser** and Mary Ann had a fabulous time on a 12-day cruise down the coast of Italy on a 300-foot masted schooner. They also visited a number of

islands, including Sicily and Malta. Among the 58 passengers aboard were their two oldest sons and one daughter-in-law. **Joyce and Joe Zanchelli** enjoyed a 15-day tour to Egypt in November and had an exciting, exhilarating, educational experience. They spent four days in Cairo, one in Alexandria, and seven days and nights on a boat on the Nile. Temples and tombs galore! On another note, at UAlbany's fourth annual UAlbany Alumni Luncheon Oct. 9, a posthumous tribute was paid to **Harvey Milk '51**, who was tragically assassinated in 1978. Since Harvey was a good friend of the Zanchellis (an usher at their

June '51 wedding), they were invited to participate, along with **Mark Berger '50**; **Joe Persico '52**; and Stuart Milk, Harvey's nephew. The tribute, which included reflections from current UAlbany students, was very inspirational. Joyce and Joe were privileged to be a part of it. An urgent request from your councilor! Joe is trying to add to the class contact list of e-mail addresses. The update will be very helpful in communicating with you and in gathering news from a more diverse group. So please send Joe your e-mail address. In addition, Joe is thinking of organizing a class reunion in Spring 2011, rather than waiting for the 65th in 2014. If you have any thoughts, pro or con, on this, let Joe know by e-mail – the address follows -- or by snail mail at 94 Fieldstone Drive, Wilton, NY 12831.

*Class notes councilor, Joe Zanchelli, [jjzanch@yahoo.com](mailto:jjzanch@yahoo.com)*



### UAlbany, State Office for Technology Form Partnership

When the New York State Office of the Chief Information Officer/Office for Technology asked them to create a new name, logo and slogan for the former eLearning and Reference Advantage (ERA) program, students in UAlbany's *Organization Image Making* class rose to the challenge. Laura Anderson-Gavin, B.A.'09, submitted the selected proposal, Empire Knowledge Bank: New York State's e-Source for Professional and Personal Development. The project provided "a great opportunity for collaboration between the University and a state agency," said project participant Corey Gilchrist, B.A.'08, "and a chance for alumni to give back to the school and the Department of Communication." Pictured, from left, are Karen Bonville; Anderson-Gavin; Chief Information Officer and CIO/OFT Director Melodie Mayberry Stewart; course instructor Stephen Madarasz, M.A.'83; and Gilchrist.

### 50 A note from your class councilor:

Plan to join your former classmates for our 60th reunion Oct. 8-10. Please let your class councilors know if you can help to plan and promote it as a member of our Reunion Committee. If you have not ordered a copy of our *Class of 1950 60th Anniversary Retrospective* but would like one, please send a check for \$10 to the Class of 1950 Account, c/o Veronica Henighan, Alumni House, University at Albany, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222. "This offer is good while the supply lasts!" Recently, nine Phi Delta alumnae met for lunch in Cobleskill. Over the past several years, this has become an annual event; usually, **Vivian Steele Ehrhardt** attends, but she was unable to join the group this time. This year, attendees ranged from the Class of 1949 (**Juanita Evans**) to several from the Class of 1952, but no one attended from the Class of 1950. **Marilyn Allen Ochs '51** and **Joyce Barringer** are the instigators! **Charles Margolin** and Lollie, his wife of 15 years, have spent the past 10 years at the Four Seasons, a retirement complex in Lakewood, N.J. They are active in a theater group, performing in far-off-Broadway productions. Charles is an avid bridge player and still enjoys doubles tennis. They travel often, mostly on cruises – 2009 trips included Scandinavia, St. Petersburg, Italy and Israel for a granddaughter's wedding.





# Alumni Association Recognizes Outstanding Achievements

The University at Albany Alumni Association will bestow Excellence Awards on the following alumni and friends for their outstanding achievements and service on May 1, 2010.

## Distinguished Alumni



Michael Castellana

Honors an alumnus or alumna for an extraordinary achievement – one recognized nationally and/or internationally – or an individual who, over the course of a decade or more, has exemplified outstanding success in a chosen profession or outstanding service to society.

**Michael J. Castellana, B.S.'84, M.B.A.'92**, president and CEO, SEFCU

## Citizen of the University



Lawrence and Marie Shore

Recognizes a non-graduate's outstanding contributions to the University through leadership, service or a special gift.

**Marie and Lawrence Shore**, longtime University volunteers and philanthropists

## Outstanding Young Alumni

Recognizes early outstanding achievements in a chosen profession or field of service and/or service to the community.

**Karen C. Kelly, M.S.'08**, assistant director, Medical Literature Curriculum, SUNY Upstate Medical University



Karen C. Kelly

## Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Recognizes the accomplishments of an individual who has demonstrated the spirit, leadership and drive of an entrepreneur.



Benjamin Bloomstone

**Benjamin R. Bloomstone, B.S.'79**, founder, Cross Shore Capital Management LLC

## Excellence in Alumni Service

Recognizes sustained leadership and service to the Alumni Association and the University by alumni.

**DeForest R. Hinman, B.S.'05**, senior equity research analyst, Walhausen & Co.



DeForest Hinman

## Excellence in Arts & Letters



Tania Modleski

Celebrates alumni for outstanding achievement in music, literature and language, visual arts or performing arts.

**Tania Modleski, B.A.'70, M.A.'71**, author and Florence R. Scott Professor of English, University of Southern California

## Excellence in Business

Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in business for profit.

**Steven M. Zelin, B.S.'84**, senior managing director, Blackstone Group



Steven Zelin

## Excellence in Community Service

Pays tribute to alumni for time volunteered that benefits a community or its non-profit institutions.

**Bill Barnette, B.S.W.'81**, director, Interagency Collaboration, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse



Bill Barnette

## Excellence in Education



Ann Marie Murray

Honors alumni for extraordinary distinction in the field of education, including pre-K through post-secondary classroom teaching, school services and administration/supervision.

**Ann Marie Murray, M.A.'75, M.S.'98, Ph.D.'02**, president, Herkimer County Community College

## Excellence in Public Service

Recognizes alumni for outstanding contributions to local, state or national communities generally, but not exclusively, through opportunities in appointed or elected office or public service nonprofit organizations.

**Deborah VanAmerongen, M.P.A.'92**, commissioner, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal



Deborah VanAmerongen

## Bertha E. Brimmer Medal

Celebrates alumni for excellence in teaching K-12 and for dedication to their profession.

**Annette Romano, M.S.'90**, national board certification coordinator, Greater Capital Region Teacher Center



Annette Romano

## Excellence in Science and Technology

Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in science and/or technology.

**Hany Farid, M.S.'92**, distinguished professor and director, Neukom Institute for Computational Science, Dartmouth College



Hany Farid

## International Award for Exceptional Achievement

Recognizes international graduates who are highly distinguished in their professions and who have helped their nations and/or the world by outstanding contributions to government, science, art, education, business, or human welfare.

**Bhupendra N. Dev, Ph.D.'85**, senior professor, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, India



Bhupendra Dev

**MAKE YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2011!** If you are interested in nominating someone for a 2011 Excellence Award, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or [alumni@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:alumni@uamail.albany.edu). The deadline is Oct. 22, 2010. Visit [www.albany.edu/alumni/excellenceawards.php](http://www.albany.edu/alumni/excellenceawards.php) for more details.

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There are three Israeli grandchildren. In December 2009, they celebrated Lollie's birthday followed by a Caribbean cruise. **Ruth Marschner Boynton** and her husband will welcome two new family members this spring when both of their granddaughters marry. One granddaughter will be earning her master's in school counseling. Their grandson is studying to be a pastor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Ruth very much enjoys her volunteer work every morning in an *Academically and Intellectually Gifted* class at an elementary school. Two books **Shirley Wiltsie Dunn** has been working on have been published. One is *Bulletin 511* for the New York State Museum, a compilation of talks presented at the museum in 2003 and 2004 and sponsored by the Native American Institute, a non-profit group. Shirley has now edited three museum bulletins. The other publication is Shirley's own book, *The River Indians: Mohicans Making History*. The commemoration of the visit of Henry Hudson has made for a busy summer in the Albany area, with talks to give and talks to attend. Shirley and Jerry have also been busy with visits from far-flung family members. In October, **Harold (Sparky) Vaughn** and his wife, Maria Pia, participated in the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Syracuse University Center in Florence, Italy. Both were involved with the program from its inception. Daughters Karen and Melanie and granddaughter Christine also spent a week in Florence with them. Sparky met with the president of the Jane Goodall Institute Italia, a partner in a Rotary Club of Washington D.C. project to assist an orphanage in Kigoma, Tanzania.

*Class counselor: Harold Vaughn,  
VaughnHA@aol.com*

**52**

*A note from your class*

**counselor: Allan Rappleyea** is senior partner of Corbally Gartland and Rappleyea, LLP of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Kitty Kloser Irons** and husband Marty went in June to Newport, R.I., and in September with their local seniors club to the Jersey Shore. They also attended a big family gathering that included a niece from Texas and cousins from Quebec. Their two older granddaughters, who live in Vermont, were on the girls' track team that won the Vermont State Championship three years in a row. Kitty

also helped make a quilt to celebrate Goshen, N.Y.'s, 220th anniversary. **Vicky Eade Eddy** sent a long update on her family's activities, which I'll summarize here. She and several of her family enjoyed a wonderful trip to Ireland and Paris; her daughter Pam, who was finishing up her Fulbright there, planned the trip. Vicky spent a good deal of time in the summer with her two Olean families, and in November with her son Chris and new granddaughter. Chris, who works for the FBI, is working on his Ph.D. Pam teaches doctoral students at William and Mary and husband Dave is head of the mechanical engineering department at Central Michigan University. What a high-powered family! **Bob Donnelly** reports that UAlbany's theatre department is planning to celebrate 100 years of theater in the spring. John Knapp, who is heading up this

event, is looking for memorabilia; he can be reached at [jek86@albany.edu](mailto:jek86@albany.edu). **David Retchless** reports that caring for his 60-acre farm – and mowing six acres of that – has become a bit much. **Bert Jablon** and wife Myra returned from a six-day visit to the historic district in Savannah, Ga., with the former Elderhostel, now renamed Exploritas. He highly recommends this visit. I have engaged in a rewarding "get reacquainted" e-mail exchange with **Elaine Shampansky Arffa**, who lives in Indianapolis and is still happily working at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Elaine and her husband, Gerry, have a daughter and a son who live near them and a second daughter living in Vancouver, B.C. Their six grandchildren range from age 9 to college age and, Elaine states, "We feel blessed and love it when they can all be together with us."

## CELEBRATE 100 Years of Theatre

### Theatre Department Alumni Event

#### CENTENNIAL WEEKEND:

*Reconnect with Classmates.*

*Visit Our Exhibit: The First 100 Years.*

*See a Special Performance of The Crucible.*

*Tour the Performing Arts Center.*

*Rekindle old friendships.*

## APRIL 23-25, 2010

## REMINISCE. RECONNECT.

For more information, contact John Knapp  
[jek86@albany.edu](mailto:jek86@albany.edu) • 518.442.4856

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*Gregory Maguire '76, author of the best seller **Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West**, signed his book at an alumni reception at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, N.Y., and then joined attendees at a production of the Broadway musical "Wicked," based on the book.*

**Tom Holman** continues to visit his beloved St. Maarten during the fall for a short stay, and for an extended time during the winter. He's been going there regularly for 20 years and has become "that old guy who's been coming here forever." He has obviously made many friends in St. Maarten and feels right at home.

**Marilyn Johnson VanDyke**, who now serves as our class president, was the recent recipient of the Glens Falls-Queensbury Historical Association's Honorary Service Award for Outstanding Service, Dedication, and Contributions to the Preservation of the Community's History. She has been the Town of Queensbury historian since 1991. In addition, as executive director of the Warren County Historical Society, Marilyn led a nine-year effort to produce the newest county history, *Warren County (NY): Its People and Their History over Time*. **Helen Pilcher**

**Terrill's** whole family had fun contributing to and furnishing their grandson's new house with hand-me-downs, "free-cycle" and "cheap-cycle" items. **Nancy Frey Pettinelli's** son, Ren, and his family came east from the St. Louis area for Christmas. **Eleanor Roth** continues writing. Her short story "Suspicion" has been published in the *Deadly Ink 2009 Short Story Collection*, and her article "Touching Souls" will be published in the anthology *A Cup of Comfort for a Better World*. Eleanor has completed her second novel and is hoping to get it published this year. **Jeanne Seymour Earle** continues to substitute teach, work in the library, take care of her large property and still find time to attend Broadway shows. I was very pleased to receive a response from **Dick Buck**,

which was followed by a very welcome exchange with him regarding his career. Dick had a very illustrious career with the New York Public Library, serving in its Performing Arts Research Center and working with such notables as Gwen Verdon, Tony Randall, Andre Watts, Dorothy Rogers and Dorothy Hammerstein, who helped keep the center afloat. Dick has retired to Miami Beach and, though his eyesight is failing, keeps up to date on the theater and news of the day. I shall try next time to include a bit more of the broadside he wrote in 1997 for the newsletter of the Theater Library Association. **Joe and Joyce Zanchelli** spent a most pleasant day last summer with **Joan Bennett Kelly** and husband Charlie at their lovely Vermont home. More recently, the Zanchellis returned from a fabulous tour of Egypt, spending five days in Cairo and seven days on a river boat on the Nile, courtesy of Grand Circle Travel. They highly recommend this tour group for a well-organized, educational, most comfortable trip and certainly suggest you get to view the ancient wonders of the world. We are sorry to report two notices of classmates' passing, **Shirley Serviss Fiorvante's** husband, Joe, died this past summer. **Jean Burns** reported her close friend, **Helen Podoba Donovan**, passed away in October. Fortunately, Jean was able to visit Helen during her final months.

**Anne Sullivan Morgan** was also able to see Helen. **Ann Adams Wilber** flew up from Florida to visit some of her children and was in town to attend Helen's graveside funeral with Jean and her husband, Jim. Helen, Anne, Ann and Jean were all Psi Gam sisters. As you proba-

bly know, we are planning a mini-interim reunion for Spring 2010. This will be a shortened event, but we hope to have a chance to see one another before our scheduled 60th reunion in 2012. Please do try to make it; the more the merrier. The Class of '52 has always broken attendance records – let's continue to do so! Please forward your e-mail address to Joyce if you have not already done so.

REMINDER: IF YOU MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO UALBANY, PLEASE DESIGNATE IT FOR THE CLASS OF '52 SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Class notes counselor: Joyce Zanchelli, [jjzanch@yahoo.com](mailto:jjzanch@yahoo.com)

**53** A scholarship will honor our classmate **Francis "Frank" Fay** (1931-2009). Frank, who received his bachelor of science degree in physics and mathematics, also completed coursework at Michigan State and Columbia University. During his career as an engineering physicist, he worked at such firms as AIL, Raytheon, and MITRE. *The Francis A. Fay '53 Memorial Scholarship* will provide scholarship support for an undergraduate student(s) who is pursuing a degree in either physics or mathematics at UAlbany and plans to work as an engineer. The recipient should demonstrate financial need.

**54** **John and Dolores Granito** have finally identified the village in Italy where John's paternal grandfather was born and raised until emigrating to

Albany as a young man. They spent a week at the Mormon Genealogy Center in Salt Lake City with a professional genealogist, and they found the official records, on microfilm, for the mountain village of Ripalimosani. Known as "Ripa," and first mentioned in historical literature in 1031, the community of 2,500 people is located in the Molise region, which stretches from the Apennine Mountains to the Adriatic Sea. John and his daughter, Ruthann, travelled there last year to meet with the mayor, local residents and the region's president. Upon returning home, John, Dolores, Ruthann, son Harry, and daughter Michele founded the Molise Economic Planning and Development Foundation, Inc. ([www.MoliseFoundation.org](http://www.MoliseFoundation.org)), a 501(C)3 organization. The foundation has a full-time staff member in Ripa and has already sponsored several local projects designed to promote business and tourism in the region. In addition, it has furnished the kids' rooms in the Ripa Children's Home and sponsored a week-long summer basketball camp for 40 boys. Because the region has suffered very serious earthquake damage in recent years, an ongoing foundation project in two villages is a "Community Emergency Response Team" pilot program funded by two American corporations. In April, the foundation is planning a La Scala evening in the Molise city of Campobasso. In its January 2010 issue, *Automobile* magazine featured the big road race sponsored by the foundation last October. This past January, Dolores,



*Bernice Shoobe, John Alasio and Jim Bennett gathered in October with classmates for their 55th reunion.*

## Alumni News and Notes

foundation treasurer, and John, vice president, went to Cambodia and Taiwan. **Sally Gerig MacLachlan** went to Israel with her daughter for Thanksgiving. Sally moved to Beverwyck in Slingerlands, N.Y., in January. The Class of '54 wishes **Richard Bailey** good health after his recent heart operation. **Gert Smith Daly** had a nice trip to Portugal in October and was sorry to miss the reunion. **Malcolm Blum** does volunteer work at the STOP AIDS Project. **Laura** and **Frank Gianone** will be in Maui Feb. 17-April 15. They

would enjoy visiting any classmates who are in Maui at that time. E-mail the Gianones at frankdia@aol.com. Our thanks to all who worked so hard to make the reunion a great success, and especially to the Zongrones for their wonderful hospitality. **Joan Hartman** just returned from New Jersey, where she attended an Exploritas (Elderhostel) program — Cape May Victorian Christmas. **John** and **Nancy Centra** had an exceptional visit to Turkey after the reunion last year and highly recommend it to classmates. This past

November, **Arline** and **George Wood's** son, Charley, was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, District 9.

*Class notes counselor: Bernice Gunsberg Shooobe, bshooobe@pol.net*

**55** **Don Lein** has been elected chair of the board of governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Eastern Piedmont in North Carolina, which serves a combined population of approximately 300,000. The organization provides options to youths in communities

beset by unemployment, neglect and street crimes. Last year, **Dee Montalbano** visited Lucca, Italy, where she renewed acquaintances with old friends and viewed an "amazing" Marc Chagall exhibit in Pisa. Dee's women's group, Over the Moon Ovations, for women in the second half of life, thrives and has morphed into Moonscapes: Exploring the Terrain of Midlife and Beyond. **Nancy Bush**, now a full-time resident of North Carolina, does political and church volunteering and is writing a grant proposal for the local fishing catch group. Nancy also authored a chapter in the recently published *The Handbook of Near-Death Experiences: Thirty Years of Investigation*. Lon Morris Interiors, LLC, the design firm owned by **Jean Morris** and her son, has again been chosen to design a room in the Palm Beach Show House, a prestigious fundraiser for the American Red Cross. **Wilma Thornton** has been on the road this fall, visiting family around the country. The Class of 1955 will celebrate its 55th anniversary during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 8-10. Mark the date, and look for more details. *Class Notes Counselor: John Orser, jorser@stny.rr.com*

**56** *A note from your class counselor:* Please don't forget to support the Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund. **Vivian Schiro Benenati's** son, Paul, was recently promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserves. He is currently serving as the commander of the 102nd Division and deputy commander general, Mobilization and Training, for the Maneuver Support Center, both at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. **David Greenberg** is vice president of l'Association française de Tallahassee, Fla., and also teaches French courses for that program. David is High Holy Days reading coordinator and sings in the choir at Temple Israel in Tallahassee. **Phyllis Bialow Levitt** is the retired chair of the Dover, Del., High School English department. Phyllis is also a former president of the Delaware ACLU and a past chair of the Delaware Humanities Forum. **Arnold Newman** and **Barbara Hillman Newman** '59 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2009 with a renewal of wedding vows, followed by a reception and dinner. **Marvin Goldstein** '56, who was an usher at their wedding, and his wife, Harriette, attended all the events. **Mary Smith Smith** and her husband, Bob,

# ALUMNI ART EXHIBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

For Fall 2011, the University Art Museum is organizing a major exhibition of the artwork of UAlbany alumni. The exhibition will occupy the entire museum space and will include all media: painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation and works on paper. Based on a long-standing track record of success among its graduates in the visual arts field, the exhibition will reflect the high caliber of art instruction at UAlbany and highlight the individual accomplishments of working alumni artists. All graduates are eligible to submit work. Works completed in the past five years in all media are eligible for consideration.

Ken Johnson '78 will serve as guest curator for this exhibition. A freelance critic, he writes regularly for *The New York Times* and is a contributing editor for *Art in America* magazine.

The exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the University at Albany Alumni Association.

For more information, please contact Exhibition/Outreach Coordinator Naomi Lewis at nlewis@albany.edu or (518) 442-4035. Deadline for submissions is Oct. 1, 2010. Artists should visit the museum website, [www.albany.edu/museum](http://www.albany.edu/museum), for details about submitting work.



## Alumni News and Notes



*Paul Hepner '71 and Bill Meehan '71 gathered with other Great Danes fans for a pregame party in Syracuse before the men's basketball team took on the Orangemen at the Carrier Dome.*

are still enjoying retirement on Long Island, N.Y., and often visit New York City when they are not visiting their children and grandchildren in Birmingham, Ala., and Phoenix, Ariz. The Smiths took a Rhine River trip in December 2008 and hope to visit the Norway coast and take a Nile cruise in 2010.

*Class notes counselor: Arnold Newman, fish7hill@aol.com*

**57** **Dr. Emil Polak** has retired after 49 years at CUNY, where he taught ancient and medieval history. Emil is completing research in Austria and Italy for the third volume of his Latin manuscript census on letter writing.

**58** **Jeanette Pietrantoni** retired in 1997 after 38 years as an English teacher in the Syracuse, N.Y., city schools. Jeanette's teaching also included two and a half years at a girls' high school in Kenya, East Africa, with the U.S. Peace Corps. She was active in her local union and in NYSUT – serving for 21 years as president of the Syracuse Teachers Association, 20 years on the NYSUT board of directors, and 10 years as a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. In 2007, Jeanette was awarded the Sandra Feldman Not for Ourselves Alone Award, a lifetime achievement award given to two women every year at the NYSUT Representative Assembly. Jeanette edits her local Retiree Council newsletter and has served for the past six years as council treasurer. She has frequently been involved with UUP's rallies and lobbying to save the SUNY system, and she gets a little nostalgic on trips to Albany. Jeanette says to her, the battles that SUNY is now facing are frightening.

She looks back and realizes that, as the child of working-class parents, she might not have had the opportunity for a college education if it hadn't been for the state system, and she wants that opportunity to continue to be available to people like her.

*Class notes counselor: Susanne Russell Williams, swilliams36@nycap.rr.com*

### **59** *A note from your class*

**counselor:** We Green Gremlins who graduated 50 years ago in 1959 gathered at our *alma mater* for a great reunion weekend Oct. 9-11. On Friday, 14 Beta Zeta sisters enjoyed a dinner at Holroyd House, around the corner from our old Beta Zeta sorority house. Other classmates enjoyed a wine and cheese reception in the atrium of the new Science Library (uptown campus). On Saturday, we were inducted into the Half-Century Club at breakfast and heard an update on University developments. That evening, 34 fellow Gremlins dined on filet mignon, salmon-puffed pastry or stuffed portabella mushrooms in the old Milne library, surrounded by the historic murals. Our guest speaker for the evening was Geoff Williams, UAlbany archivist, who answered the question "Where Have All the Teachers Gone?" Geoff came prepared with a list of faculty members we had known and told us what he knew of them. As we talked about each of them, he took notes and admitted that he was looking for anecdotal material for the archives. He also would appreciate any memorabilia from our college days. So, if you are still "downsizing" and come across

any souvenirs from college (programs, announcements, keepsakes, etc.) or if you have special memories you would like to share with future generations, please get in touch with Geoff at [gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu). At Sunday's farewell breakfast, **Elizabeth Pfligl Nickles** and **Miriam Sanderson Russell** agreed to serve as class co-counselors, and the class voted to give its accumulated University funds to the School of Education for the purpose of mentoring undergraduate students. All in all, it was a wonderful weekend, and we thank those who planned it and those who took part in the activities. A special thanks to the planning committee (**Hank Boehning**, **Lee DeNike**, **Joan Anderson Haught**, **Valerie Burns McDonald**, and **Betty Pfligl Nickles**) and to those who had a special role at our reunion dinner (**Bob Kampf**, who was master of ceremonies, and **Rev. Bill Turnbull**, who gave the invocation). College reunions are a great opportunity to renew old friendships, establish new friendships and to catch up on the latest news. **Hank Boehning** and wife Jeannette Leggieri live in Latham, N.Y., where they are thoroughly enjoying retirement. Hank spent most of his career with the North Colonie School District, first as a junior high teacher and later as an elementary school principal. Hank's community involvement (including coaching youth soccer for the Town of Colonie) led to his induction into the North Colonie Central School/Community Hall of Fame in 2001. **Lee DeNike** retired as a professor from Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts. Lee and wife Jane live in Lunenburg, Mass., where Lee enjoys fly

fishing, model railroading, traveling, stamp collecting, gardening and bee-keeping. **Virginia Buddenhagen Gugliamone** and husband Tito live in Callicoon, N.Y. Virginia taught for 23 years in Sayville, Long Island, N.Y. Since retiring, they have traveled widely in Mexico, Italy, Germany, Eastern Europe, etc. And, of course, they spend time visiting their three children and six grandchildren. **Joan Anderson Haught** spent 20 years teaching math to all ages and stages in suburban, international and religious schools and colleges. She has traveled all over North America, and visited islands and Third World countries. Joan lives in an "active" retirement village in Flagler Beach, Fla., traveling, hiking and playing clarinet in community bands. She also enjoys swimming, zumba, line dancing and playing bridge. **Bob Kampf** lives in Hyde Park, N.Y. After teaching and guidance counseling, Bob became principal of the Dutchess County BOCES Technical School, retiring in 1993 (after more than 20 years in the post). In retirement, he has served on the Hyde Park Town Board and pursued many activities, including golf and horse

### **Alumni Association Annual Meeting Notice**

**Notice is hereby given  
that the annual meeting  
of the University  
at Albany Alumni  
Association will be  
held Saturday,  
May 1, 2010.**



*Class of '95 alumni Jay Cristello, John Zagata, Robert Krollage and Christian Berry attended the 5th Annual Tom Eggers ('93) Memorial Golf Outing.*

JAMES P. WALSH, B.A.'75

## Teaching Corporate Social Responsibility

**JAMES P. WALSH** travels the world teaching University of Michigan students how American consumers' demand for the lowest-priced products impacts the lives of people elsewhere. His students have visited facilities where workers run machinery but lack eye and ear protection, wear flip-flops rather than protective shoes on the factory floor, and sleep in makeshift beds because they work around the clock.

As an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, the Gerald and Esther Carey Professor of Business Administration, professor of management and organizations, and professor of strategy at Michigan's Ross School of Business, Walsh works hard to mix theory with practice when he asks his students to consider questions about a corporation's social responsibilities. He emphasizes that corporations and consumers alike have roles to play in making the world a better place.

A psychology major at UAlbany, Walsh switched to business in graduate school. "I came to appreciate just how much business itself defines our lives, not just as employees, but also as customers, investors and citizens," he notes. He earned master's degrees from both Columbia University and the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Northwestern.

Walsh credits social psychologist Bruce Layton as his first mentor. "The fact that he affirmed and encouraged me as he did was huge. Now that I am on the other side of the desk, I can see what a gift that was. He changed my life. I can never repay him, but I really do try to honor him by 'paying it forward.'"

Walsh, who grew up in Delmar, N.Y., recalls many "great adventures" of his student days. His favorite memories involve filling old cars with friends and heading south for winter and spring breaks. "I swapped my car for a motorcycle in my junior year. I lived on Quail Street during my senior year. I remember some bone-chilling drives to campus that winter," says Walsh, who also worked part time with campus security as a student patrolman.

Last fall, Walsh returned "home" to UAlbany as keynote speaker at a School of Business conference on corporate social responsibility. As the 65th president of the Academy of Management, the world's premier association of management scholars, he heads an organization that boasts more than 18,000 members from over 100 nations.

— Greta J. Petry, M.A.'01



James P. Walsh, B.A.'75

racings. Bob still would like to be part owner of a thoroughbred! **Ann Sheldon Macintyre** spent much of her career in upstate New York, teaching in the library media center at Catskill High School, where she also accompanied choruses and soloists and played for musicals. After her retirement in 1995, she moved to Montana, where, once again, she taught high school and accompanied music students. Ann now lives in Spencertown, N.Y., and enjoys playing piano, swimming, gardening, honing her computer skills and reading. **Corinne Marro Marley** taught and substituted for 30 years. Corinne and husband Steve '59 live in East Hampton, N.Y., but have a part-time, seasonal condo in Naples, Fla. Corinne volunteers at a thrift shop, plays bridge, and participates in indoor and outdoor doubles in tennis. With four children and five grandchildren, Corinne, too, leads an active life. **Valerie Burns McDonald** is another "snowbird" who divides her time between East Greenbush, N.Y., and West Palm Beach, Fla. (when she's not traveling around the world with her former college roommate, **Joan Anderson Haight**). Val worked at Albany High for 30 years. She was also president of the board of directors of the Albany Public School Teachers Federal Credit Union, which has since grown into the First Teachers Federal Credit Union. After retiring, Val and her husband spent winters in Florida and she became active in the community there. Her three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren are all in the Albany area, so she tries to be here from late spring through early fall. **Elizabeth Pfeigl Nickles** and her husband, John, are once again living on the farm — 16 miles south of Albany — where she grew up. She taught biology and/or physics on the college level for most of her career. Since retiring, she has become an avid naturalist and nature photographer, volunteering at local nature centers and teaching in the Creative Retirement program at Hudson Valley Community College. **H. James Owen** retired in August 2009 after 28 years as president of three community colleges in North Carolina and Tennessee. Most recently, James was president of Piedmont Community College (1987-2009) in Roxboro, N.C., where he and wife Leah live. They have a son and two granddaughters. He is active in his church and Kiwanis. **William Raven** lives with wife Fran in Black River, N.Y. They have seven children, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bill taught English for 10 years and was a high school principal for 18 years. **Ronald Short** and his wife, Doris, live in Zephyrhills, Fla. Prior to retirement, Ron taught social studies and English and was a high school principal. Ron also studied at North Park Theological Seminary and has been a youth pastor for 10 years. He is currently working on two books: *Mission Possible: Learning to Live with Love and Lead Teens* and *The Gospel According to Mother Goose: Lessons in Practical Christian Living through Nursery Rhymes*. Ron's hobbies include downhill skiing, swimming, reading, speaking at retreats and conventions — and, of course, getting together with his family of three children and five grandchildren. **Rochelle Rosenfeld Stracher** and her husband, Donald, live in Schenectady, N.Y. In addition to teaching social studies and English, Rochelle pursued a second career in real estate and property management and is still active in that field. She enjoys ballroom dancing and studying Hebrew. She was recently honored by Congregation Beth Israel in Schenectady with an award for many years of community service. **Rev. William Turnbull** lives in Waterford, N.Y. After completing seminary in 1967, Bill taught at Cardinal





McCloskey High School (now Bishop Maginn) in Albany and Catholic Central High School in Troy. Bill left teaching in 1997 and was in parish ministry until his official retirement in 2007. Bill is still active in ministry and teaching in the Diocese of Albany. **Francine Valvo** lives in Buffalo, N.Y. Francine was a librarian with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, where she managed seven branches. She is active in many community and civic organizations, and she enjoys gardening and travel.

**Barbara Vaas Wightman** and husband Dale live in Cortland, N.Y. After teaching for a few years, Barbara pursued a lucrative career with Home Interior Gifts. She now does volunteer work with International Friendship Evangelism at Syracuse University and Wycliffe Bible Translators at JAARS in North Carolina. Barbara's hobby is memorizing phone numbers. **Richard Willis** lives in Baltimore, Md. He taught on both the high school and college levels and holds a J.D., as well as a Ph.D. (in higher education psychometrics). He enjoys taking care of his gardens, spending time with his two children and three grandchildren, and attending Baltimore Ravens games. **Brenda Buchanan Bergman** has become a world traveler. Her favorite destination? Turkey. **Connie Olivo Whitehurst** retired as executive director of the Children's Home of Kingston but still works to benefit their programs. Whitehurst Hall at the home was named after her in 1996! **Joan Nole Salerno**

retired in 2006 from instructor training for the NYSUT Effective Teaching Program and teaching summer graduate courses in education. **Mary Lou Cinque** managed to save her camera from thieves on her most recent trip to Africa. She continues to take photos, enjoy her five grandchildren and cheer for the Yankees! **Marcia Cogley Gagnon** continues as AIS math teacher with 32 years under her belt and counting. **Charlotte Brown Fauth** retired after 33 years teaching business office education. Since retiring, she has been with the Palm Springs Art Museum as docent and educator. She is also

involved at The Vintage Club in Indian Wells, Calif., as a member and has developed a forum that highlights members and their business successes. She also chaired the Women's Association of the Vintage Club. **Sandra Kobrin Goldstein** earned a master's in guidance at Hofstra while teaching business education at Lindenhurst High School on Long Island. After earning a certification in math and elementary education, she taught second grade and raised two children. Since retirement, Sandra and her husband have traveled abroad, as well as in the states – especially to her daughter in Los Angeles. Sandy keeps busy playing mah jongg; she also belongs to a Red Hat group, a book club and a knitting guild. She also enjoys the grandchildren and “doing lunch with the girls.” **Theresa Vitale Bosomworth** has enjoyed camping for 40 years. Now, she and her husband take their grandchildren – one grandson and eight granddaughters. Terry and her husband also have traveled to Italy and Germany. **Lynn Becraft Schmidt** retired from teaching in 1998 and has enjoyed retirement by sailing, golfing, skiing (not anymore), traveling, and living in Florida for half the year and in the Adirondacks for the other half. **Roberta Taylor Hyde's** career was spent in research and municipal government. She still works part time; Roberta is also an accomplished yoga practitioner and teacher. **Denise Hurley Agostinello** splits her time between Florida and the Long Island Golf

Club. She is past president of the Women's Club of Patchogue and current treasurer of the Bellport Women's Golf Club. Denise spends her spare time with her twin 6-year-old granddaughters. **Miriam Sanderson Russell** earned her doctorate in education in 1997 and is working on a memoir about becoming a widow: *Suddenly Single: Life after Death*. In addition, she sings in local choruses in the Capital Region and continues to work part-time with Empire State College in the Distance Learning Center, where she also teaches online. **Marion Sciortino Guthrie** has been traveling all over the world on business. She recently went to Sicily, the birthplace of her four grandparents. The Guthries have been living along the coast of Maine for more than 30 years. Marion's most recent volunteer work has been at the museum store at the Portland Head Light. At the famous lighthouse, which is within walking distance of their home, she meets tourists from all over the world. **Jane Showerman Strong** was a counselor/tutor for HEOP Southampton College for 23 years before retiring. On Oct. 11, 2009, the Class of 1959 members attending their 50th reunion farewell breakfast voted to donate \$1,700 from their class account to the School of Education Mentoring Program. Still going strong, we are looking forward to our next reunion in 2014!

Class notes counselor: Dr. Miriam Sanderson Russell, Miriam38@hotmail.com



*Sigma Tau Beta alumni from the classes of 1969 through the mid-1970s gathered for their 40th reunion celebration in the Campus Ballroom.*

# Alumni News and Notes

## 60 A note from your class

**councilor:** Hello, Yellowjackets! This is our BIG year – get ready to make the trip to Albany to celebrate our 50th class reunion. It will take place Oct. 8-10, 2010. Your councilors have received very good feedback from our questionnaire, and it appears that we can anticipate a good turnout. Meanwhile, if there are those of you who have suggestions for the reunion regarding activities or ideas from our history (customs, faculty, etc.) you'd like us to include in some way, let us know! Also, please volunteer to serve on the Reunion Committee, which will help execute the events, make contacts, etc. The Class of 1960 invites

attended a convention in Portland, Ore., in June, then enjoyed a ten-day visit to Walt Disney World in Orlando with her daughter in November. **Irene Domenico Del Torto** is a special projects co-coordinator. She plans to attend our 50th reunion. **Nancy Lou Ryan Gnan** and husband John enjoyed a Caribbean cruise in November. **Elizabeth Gross** and **Margaret Hawver Wright** met unexpectedly at an Elderhostel class in Canada. Liz is still working part time. Meg is retired, doing some subbing, and living in Maine after working for six years in the West Indies. She and **Doris Hische Brossy** met over coffee recently, catching up on the past 50 years! **Audrey Hurd** retired

**"Cookie" Kaufman Block** retired in 1995 after working in the Port Jefferson Schools for 28 years as a teacher, counselor and guidance department head. Cookie is taking courses at Stony Brook University and works as a "standardized patient" at SBU Hospital. Cookie traveled to China with her eldest grandchild. She is involved in local politics, is an avid theatre and opera patron, and still loves New York City. **Marcia Cavanaugh Meaney** and husband Jim now live in Jupiter Island, Fla. They have five children scattered around the country and 15 grandchildren! Marcia is a retired business professor and works at various short-term jobs and projects. She writes of fond memories of Albany and Chi Sig.

*Class notes councilor: Joan Cali Pecore, Cueville@comcast.net*

## 62 Notes from your class

**councilor: Robert Sweeney,** lakeerie8@yahoo.com, has indicated an interest in working on our 50th reunion; 2012 will arrive quickly. In addition to my soliciting news, Robert has asked for ideas for our Half-Century event. Please send early input to Robert, **Helen Arcuri-Stoloff** (stolohel@hotmail.com) or me. **Elena Rabine Halady** is retired but active as an accounting consultant at four high schools in Queens. She teaches a GED course at Queens Community College, pursues her ballroom dancing passion and gym workouts, and enjoys Boca. Traveling last year: **Steve Mysylinski** and wife spent time in Switzerland in the summer; **Susan Blank** visited Japan; and **Sheril Joan McCormack** spent a month in Malta and Sicily and a week in Chicago. Sheril also had a good recovery from a knee replacement. **Hannah Schnitt Rogers** anticipates her other twin boy's upcoming marriage.

*Class notes councilor: Sheril Joan McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com*

## 63 Joyce Williamson Gould

and James Robinson eloped in March 2009 on the island of Cozumel, Mexico. They are making their homes in Valatie, N.Y., and Manchester Center, Vt. Joyce recently entertained her Benson Street room-mates, members of the Class of 1963, at a luncheon at her home in Valatie. Joining the festivities were **Linda Kolts** from Brooklyn, **Joanne Heller Hameister** of East Aurora, N.Y., and **Kathy Glass Holmes** of St. Paul, Minn.



Joyce Williamson Gould and James Robinson

## 64 Richard Leveroni

professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Schenectady Community College, received the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. St. Joseph's College announced the induction of **Gary Smith** into its second annual Golden Eagle Athletic Hall of Fame celebration last October.



Richard Leveroni



*President George M. Philip '69, '73 (second row, fourth from left) hosted his 40th class reunion at the President's Residence during Homecoming 2009.*

the classes who were with us on campus to join our reunion, especially our "Rivalry" foes, the classes of 1959 and 1961. You would be most welcome to share in the good times and memories! **Clark "Bud" Baker** retired in 2001 after being active with three careers. Bud taught chemistry for six years; then co-owned an employment agency in Albany for three years; and then, for 29 years, he was in industrial sales with Ashland, Inc. His wife, Joy, received her master's from Albany in 1972. **Doris Hische Brossy**

from the Buffalo Public School System, where she taught English and reading. She has performed with the Amherst Symphony Orchestra for 50 years and serves on its association board and Friends of ASO. She is also working with a trainer and enjoys ballroom dancing. **Doug Penfield** is still at Rutgers University in New Jersey and spends summers at his home on Lake Champlain. **David Swanson** retired from East High in Rochester after 30 years as a math teacher. **Estelle**

**Rosalie Walsh Niemczyk** sold her large "Hidden Pond Farm" with all its buildings and acreage to an energetic young couple she hopes will carry on in the Niemczyk family tradition. She purchased a new home on the land next to "Hidden Pond." Ro (our own "Minerva") is still active on the Bath, N.Y., Central School Board and continues to write toward the completion of a murder mystery! Ro plans to attend our 50th reunion. We look forward to seeing ALL of you in the fall at the BIG 5-0!



## 65 Carole Harvey Jacobs

writes: "Long ago you knew me as Carole Harvey, but most of my adult life I have been known as Kate, and in the blessed state of retirement now go by my married surname, Jacobs. Just over a year ago, John and I wrapped up our employment and moved to Tellico Village, near Knoxville, Tenn., chosen for the beauty of the Smokies nearby and the pleasures of residing on a living lake that serves as a trap for grandchildren (currently 12 and soon to be 14). After 30 years of ordained ministry, I am thrilled to be involved in community and church work, and most of all love the newly discovered pleasure of acting in comedies. Life is full of blessings."

## 68 Ray Starman's book *TV Noir: The Twentieth Century* was added to the Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland; Princeton University's Firestone Library catalog; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Barton Catalog in the Hayden Library stacks; and Columbia University's online catalog at the Butler Library.



Waterbury roommates from 1964, Jerry Baker, Joe Keating and Ted Avgerinos enjoyed a luncheon reunion this past summer in Syracuse, N.Y.

## 70 Bernie Dunn, counselor IV in student development, received the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service from Schenectady County Community College. Bernie has also authored *Transfer Advisory Handbook for Advisors* and *10 Steps for Easy Transfer* and has served as one of the co-chairs for the SCCC Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honorary Society.



Bernie Dunn

## 72 After almost 32 years as a reference librarian, Susan Levy has retired from the Brooklyn Public Library.

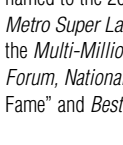
## 73 Distinguished criminal justice scholar and former Rutgers Professor Todd Clear has been appointed dean of the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in Newark, N.J.

## 74 Sandra Boynton, professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Schenectady County Community College, received the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. Dr. Gail Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College and a nationally recognized expert on the history, development and future of the American community college, has joined the board of trustees of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



Sandra Boynton

## 75 Patrick Curran, a senior partner at Damon Morey LLP, has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*. For the third consecutive year, attorney David Perecman has been named to the 2009 edition of *New York Metro Super Lawyers*. David is listed in the *Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum*, *National Law Journal's* "Hall of Fame" and *Best Lawyers in America*. His



Patrick Curran

expertise has brought him to "Court TV," where he has been a commentator. David also serves on the executive committee of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

## 77 Tony Vinciguerra, chairman and CEO of the Fox Networks Group, was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame last October. George Keith is president and COO of Westport Resources Management Inc. and Westport Resources Investment Services Inc. in Connecticut; he was also elected to the board.

## 78 Cabrini Eldercare Consortium has named Stamford resident David Arditti chief financial officer.

## 79 It is with sadness we note that Robert Velez passed away in March 2009. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross is proud to announce that CFO Bayard Gardineer III has been named Nonprofit CFO of the Year by *Philadelphia Business Journal* and Drexel University's LeBow College of Business. Jerry Jaiven is a service operation executive for AT&T and, for the past decade, has lived along the shore of Lake Michigan. Jerry's passions include his wife, Kathy, and supporting three children through their ice hockey "careers." Jerry also plays in a weekly, over-40 ice hockey league. Candace Fuoco Merbler received the 2008 UAlbany President's

Award for Excellence in Professional Service, as well as the 2008 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Candace celebrated her 30th year of employment at UAlbany last September and is currently working in the University Libraries.

## 80 Lynne Martin Olver was appointed director of the Morris County Library, Whippany N.J. Lynne also manages Foodtimeline.org, a nonprofit food history research service. Kenneth Doolittle has joined the Wayne bank as vice president, commercial lender in the Tannersville, Pa. office. Kenneth resides in Clarks Summit with his wife, Peggy, and their son, Ken.



Michael Edward Levy

**Michael Edward Levy** was elected judge of the 15th Judicial District by the Virginia General Assembly in January 2009. The Nassau County Bar Association has appointed **Russell Marnell** as chairman of the Attorneys/Accountants Subcommittee. Russell, a member of the New York Family Law American Inns of Court, is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is included in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. **Brett Kappel**, a specialist in campaign finance and ethics regulations, has joined Arent Fox's government relations practice, where he will be of counsel.



Alumni and their families enjoyed great food and fun activities at the biggest indoor tailgate party, the Ferocious Feast, held at the University gym on Feb. 6.

## Alumni News and Notes



*David Zimmerman '82, executive vice president and general counsel of the National Hockey League (right), speaks to two School of Business students at Network NYC. They joined about 125 School of Business students and alumni in New York City over the winter break to share insights and experiences and build connections at the third annual Network NYC, sponsored by the Alumni Association and the School of Business.*

**81**

**Paul Aiello** has joined OptiCon Systems Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla., as president and CSO. Kramer Levin Naftalis and Frankel LLP announced that **David Fisher** has joined the firm as a partner in the Banking and Finance Group.



David Fisher

**82**

**Betty DiMaria** has been promoted to chief performance officer of Northeast Association Management, Inc. in Latham, N.Y. Having formerly served as vice president, Information Technology, for 11 years, Betty built the IT department from the ground up and is responsible for its successes today.

**Theresa Pardo** has been named director of UAlbany's Center for Technology in Government (CTG), where she has served as deputy director since 2002. CTG is a world-renowned digital government research and practice center, bringing together the University's strength in public policy research with the latest knowledge in information technology.

**Lisa Ann Sokolowski Pomeroy** received honorable mention in the category of Feature Article at the 2008 American Horse Publications Annual Awards in New Orleans for "The Art of Roping," published in *The Score*, the

official magazine of the National Team Roping Horse Association, and Grand Prize in the 2010 Second Chance Ranch Calendar contest for her photograph *Rue's Tonto – A Close*



Lisa Ann Sokolowski Pomeroy

*Up*. Pomeroy is a member of the International Alliance of Equestrian Journalists and a professional photo-journalist in the horse industry, regularly

contributing to numerous equestrian publications and Web sites. In September, Lisa celebrated her 19th wedding anniversary with her husband, musician and vocalist Scott Lawson Pomeroy of the Mambo Sons.

**83**

**Peter Marino's** young adult novel, *Magic and Misery*, has made Booklist's Top Ten Books for Youth in the Romance category. **John Nielsen** has joined Northeast Association Management Inc. (NEAMI) as executive

**85**

**Dr. Gerard D'Aversa**, a partner at Ophthalmic Consultants of Long Island, will participate in the Mission Cataract USA program, offering free surgery to Long Island, N.Y., residents who are unable to pay for the surgery themselves.



Gerard D'Aversa

Gerard specializes in performing topical, sutureless, clear corneal cataract surgery, corneal transplants and laser vision correction.

**86**

**Edward O'Connor** has been appointed to the Gaylord Hospital Board of Directors in Wallingford, Conn. Edward, a board member of Connecticut BioBus Educational Programs, is also a member of many professional organizations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the National Association of Advisors for Health Professions and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. **Howard Krooks** has been included in *Super Lawyers South Florida 2009 edition*. Howard is a partner of Elder Law Associates PA, with offices in Boca Raton, Aventura, West Palm Beach and Weston.

## Call to Action: Regional Volunteers

Would you like to bring a slice of UAlbany to your community?  
You can – by becoming a regional volunteer for the UAlbany Alumni Association.

You'll act as a local contact for the Alumni Association, as well as for prospective students and new graduates of the University. You may occasionally be asked to help determine the best location for a UAlbany function or to assist in planning informal area events. In addition, you may have the opportunity to serve as a University ambassador at local events. It's also a great opportunity to network while helping to strengthen the UAlbany connection among alumni in your area.

Becoming a regional volunteer is a great way to give back to UAlbany, no matter where you live. For more information, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or [alumniassociation@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@uamail.albany.edu).



**87** This past December, **Jason Grossman** performed in the live, solo adaptation of Frank Capra's classic film "It's a Wonderful Life." Jason co-wrote and performed the comedy show *You Happy Now? Somebody Just Lost An Eye*. His New York City acting credits include "The Apotheosis of Vaclav Drda," "Of Mice and Men," "Good," "Where Sleeping Gods Lie" and "The Overdevelopment of Scott." Jason founded the popular comedy group and long-running performance series "Funny Sheesh" and has performed with National Comedy Theatre, Loos Scrooz and the Why Work Task Force. Jason has written for Mind the Gap Theatre Company, *the Shortened Attention Span One Act Festival* and "TV Land's Ultimate Fan Search."

**Brother John (Jack) Curran** is vice president for development at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. Founded in the West Bank, Bethlehem University is a Catholic university with a 2/3 Muslim student body that offers an alternative to suicide bombings, targeted assassinations, walls, fences, settlements, soldiers and home demolitions. Education is the path it provides towards a just and viable peace in the Middle East. **Ray Iler** has joined the hedge fund team of Deloitte Asset Management Services practice, which is based in San Francisco, Calif.

**88** **Eric Bass** has joined Rothstein Kass as a principal in the Business Advisory Services practice in New York. After serving as an assistant staff judge advocate for the 78th Division for nearly six years, **Stuart Minkowitz** transferred to Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division, New Jersey Army National Guard, and was attached to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, New Jersey National Guard, at Fort Dix, N.J., as chief of administrative law in December 2005. Stuart left the service in December 2007.



Chris Celenza

**Christopher Celenza** has been named the 21st director of the American Academy in Rome. Christopher's three-year tenure begins in July 2010.

**89** **Mark Kotzin** recently was recognized by the leadership of the Civil Service Employees Association for reaching his 20th anniversary serving as a communications specialist for the labor union. Mark serves as spokesperson and directs all the union's communications efforts for 20 counties throughout Central New York, representing about 50,000 public service workers. During Summer 2009, Mark, wife Ellen, and their two children opened their home to a 10-year-old girl from Belfast, Ireland, for four weeks as a host family through Project Children. **Daniel Baker**, a



Dan Baker

partner with Sahn Ward and Baker of Uniondale, N.Y., has been named Alum of the Month by Touro Law Center. Daniel, wife Natasha, and their children reside in Huntington, N.Y. Daniel is a trustee of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Long Island Chapter. He is an appointed member of the Surrogate Decision Making Committee Program of the State of New York Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled. Daniel is a member of the American, New York State and Nassau County bar associations. He is also a member of the advisory board of the Chicago Title Insurance Company.

**Gary Mottola** is a senior research analyst for Vanguard Center for Retirement Research. Gary, a social psychologist who has coauthored several academic publications on intergroup behavior, is a visiting scholar at The Wharton School.

**90** **Timothy Molchany** is assistant professor for the Department of Communication/Theatre at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Pa.



Tim Molchany

**91** After the collapse of Lehman Brothers, where **Larry Borstein** was global head of Technology Law, Larry started his own firm, Borstein & Irvine, based in New

**DINA REFKI,**  
**M.A.'88, D.A.'00**

## Immigrant Advocate

**DINA REFKI** has been named interim director of the University at Albany's Center for Women in Government and Civil Society (CWGCS).

Born and raised in Cairo, Refki studied English literature at Egypt's Ain Shams University. She left her homeland at 21 and came to Albany to enroll at the University. Refki earned a master's in Africana studies, then returned to UAlbany to work toward a degree in the former humanistic studies program. Named a Women and Public Policy Fellow in 2000, she went on to direct that program.



Refki, who has been with CWGCS for nearly a decade, brings to her new position a keen awareness of "the challenges both women and men face when they uproot their lives and replant them in a new country." As a researcher with extensive experience studying issues that affect immigrant women, she is well prepared for another role: principal investigator of a project to improve language assistance at family-planning clinics. Supported by \$600,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the project "is designed to systematically study how organizational improvement in language-assistance services can contribute to the elimination of disparities in family-planning services," Refki said. "The strategies, tools and lessons we will learn will help to improve the planning and delivery of services for these vulnerable populations."

# Alumni News and Notes

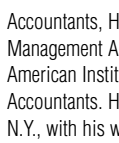
York City. Larry also has cofounded Nexfirm, which is planning to open an office in Albany, N.Y. **Stephen**



Stephen Grimaldi

**Grimaldi** has been named executive director of Yorkville Common Pantry, New York City's largest community-based food pantry. **Anthony**

**Panico** has been promoted from senior manager to partner of WithumSmith & Brown PC, based in Morristown, N.J. **Anthony** is a member of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public



Anthony Panico

Accountants, Healthcare Financial Management Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He resides in Airmont, N.Y., with his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters.

**92** **Dylan Mitchell** has been elected partner at Blank Rome LLP in Philadelphia, Pa. **William Woodward** is dean of Students at Averett University in Danville, Va.

**93** **Abner JeanPierre** has been appointed to the University Council at UAlbany. Abner, a recipient of the Governor's Tribute for Excellence in State



Abner JeanPierre

Service, works for the New York State Department of Civil Service as chief compensation analyst. Abner; his wife, **Norma Matos '93**; and their three sons live in Latham, N.Y. **John Bagyi**, deputy managing attorney of Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC in Albany, N.Y., is listed in *New York Super Lawyers 2009 Upstate Edition*, *Super Lawyers Corporate Counsel Edition* and *The Best Lawyers in America 2010*.



John Bagyi

**94** In December, **Aviva Warter Sisitsky** made partner at the international law firm of Jones Day. At the East Greenbush Central School District's September Board of Education meeting, the Special Needs Parent Group honored Bell Top Elementary School Special Education teacher **John Rivera** with the annual Mary P. VanDerzee Special Educator of the Year Award. VanDerzee was the director of Pupil Personnel Services in East Greenbush, N.Y., from 1988 to 1992. Sadly, she passed away in 2002. Mary was known and admired by all as an advocate for students with special needs and a person who was committed to the concept of inclusion.

**96** **Tracy Ennis** of Greenwich, N.Y., is pursuing a doctor of psychology degree in clinical psychology at Antioch University New England in Keene, N.H. **Monica Miranda Smalls**, director of

Fraternity and Sorority Affairs in the Office of the Dean of Students at the University of Rochester, is president-elect for the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors.

**97** **Amanda Puppo**, CEO of MarketReach Inc. in Hightstown, N.J., is president of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, Mercer County Chapter, for 2009-2011. Amanda also was an elected speaker for National Entrepreneurship Week on behalf of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association.

**99** **Lisa Ferrante Coniglio** is a business unit manager of emerging markets with Citigroup in Manhattan.

**00** During 2009, **Daniel Guyton** had six books published, including *The Twisted Mind of Daniel Guyton: Poetry and Plays in the Dark Comedy Vein*, an anthology of short plays and poems. Other titles include *The Mother of God Visits Hell: A Play in Iambic Pentameter*; *The Alive Theatre's Cherry Poppin Plays 2009*; *I'm Not Gay!*; *Desert Road's One Acts of Note 2008*; and *Where's Julie?* Daniel's dark comedy *Georgie Gets a Facelift* was produced at the Shelterbelt Theatre's Shelterskeller Festival XIV in Omaha, Neb., last October. His new play, *Death of a Snowman*, premiered at the Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis, Ind., in November.

**02** **Sid O'Bryant**, an assistant professor in neurology and director of rural health research at Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center, is working with researchers from four Texas universities in the hope of finding telltale signs of Alzheimer's disease lurking in a patient's blood. The researchers recently secured part of a \$6.85 million grant to find Alzheimer's "markers" in the blood and genes, and use them to improve diagnosis and treatment. Sid's work on Alzheimer's disease, as well as a broader study on the health of people in two rural West Texas counties, earned him a 2009



President George Philip '69, '73 welcomes students into the new student fan club the DANEger Zone. The name was selected by student vote in a campus wide election.

Early Career Award from the National Academy of Neuropsychology, which recognizes research excellence achieved within 10 years of completing formal training. **Adrian Castro** is an associate of the Litigation Department of Fairfield and Woods in Denver, Colo.

**03** **Joel Levy** is an economics professor at Central Piedmont Community College and also holds the position of assistant city treasurer for the City of Charlotte, N.C.

**04** **Julie Batson** was chosen a 2009 Accent on Excellence honoree in Utica, N.Y. Julie is manager of Marketing and Communications for Upstate Cerebral Palsy. **Jennifer DeLeo** is a Web content specialist at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa.

**05** **Laura Nazzaro** has been hired as assistant prosecutor with the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office. Laura also completed a clerkship with the Honorable N. Peter Conforti, J.S.C., in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey in Sussex County. **Lee Peretz**, a senior marketing associate at Grassi and Co. CPAs in Lake Success has been elected president of the 2009-2010 board of directors of the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island. **Mark Tratenberg** received his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree



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For a complete listing of class councilors:  
[www.albany.edu/alumni/avc.php](http://www.albany.edu/alumni/avc.php)  
or call the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080.



from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. **Ashley Prager** has joined Leiderman Shelomith P.A. as the new bankruptcy associate attorney.

**07** **Correction:** **Brian Lyons** was mistakenly reported as deceased in the Fall 2009 issue of *UAlbany* magazine. We are happy to note Brian is alive and well and is an assistant professor of management for the Craig School of Business at California State University in Fresno. **Josh Sisskind** is a geospatial scientist for ITT Space Systems in Washington, D.C., and his wife, **Kimberly Wolk Sisskind**, is a high school ESL teacher in Annandale Va. They reside in Fairfax, Va.

**08** The Town of Rye, N.Y., has hired **John Goodwin** for a one-year consulting post to study eliminating the town government or merging its villages.



# Marriages



Kimberly Nuzzo and Ryan Munks



Joshua Sisskind and Kimberly Wolk



Trayden Kamprath and Laura Ciccone

- 1963 – **Joyce Williamson Gould** and James Robinson, March 23, 2009
- 1999 – **Lisa Marie Ferrante** and Joseph Dominick Coniglio, Sept. 19, 2009
- 2003 – **Kristopher Burnham** and **Megan Martin** '07, July 25, 2009
- 2005 – **Craig Ezra Brimmer** and Jessica Lauren Rosengarten, Oct. 11, 2009
- 2007 – **Kimberly Nuzzo** and **Ryan Munks**, July 25, 2009  
**Joshua Sisskind** and **Kimberly Wolk**, July 5, 2009
- 2008 – **Laura Ciccone** and Trayden Kamprath, May 2, 2009  
**Ashley Leeds Starkey** and John William Scranton, July 18, 2009
- 2009 – **Amy Rudka** and Barry Tallman Jr., July 18, 2009



# Births



Finley Clementine Sanders



Casey James Riley Doerzbacher



Jonas Aaron Miro



Levi Patrick Schaffer



Rydan Beau Russell



Lauren Deborah Giesselman



Marion Kathleen Werner



Aviva Warter Sisitsky with son Kyle and daughter Summer



Lola Avery Wahl

- 1989 – **Paula Riley** and husband Jeff Doerzbacher, a son, Casey James, May 6, 2009
- 1992 – **Alyssa Miro** and husband Paul, a son, Jonas Aaron, Feb. 20, 2009
- 1993 – **Jonathan Schaffer** and wife Rebecca, a son, Levi Patrick, Aug. 14, 2009
- 1994 – **Aviva Warter Sisitsky** and husband Pete, a daughter, Summer Dutchie, Dec. 15, 2008
- 1995 – **Aaron Russell** and wife Pattiann, a son, Rydan Beau, July 10, 2009
- 1996 – **Jeffrey Sanders** and wife Megan, a son, Finley Clementine, Oct. 6, 2009
- 1998 – Gregory and **Abby Wahl** a daughter, Lola Avery, Aug. 14, 2009
- 2000 – **Nicole Mehner Werner** and husband Michael, a daughter, Marion Kathleen, Nov. 29, 2009
- 2003 – **Nathan Giesselman** and wife Janel, a daughter, Lauren Deborah, Nov. 14, 2009
- 2006 – **Motti Wein** and wife **Ilana Nathan** '07, a daughter, Gittel Chana, Sept. 12, 2009

## Authors & Editors



**Graham Duncan, B.A. '47, M.A. '47**, has written *Every Infant's Blood – New and Selected Poems*. Duncan, a retired professor of English at SUNY Oneonta, has many more poems published in periodicals, as well as small collections published as chapbooks. "Graham Duncan's poems exhibit a mastery of form," says poet Roy Scheele. "Only after reading them do we realize how deeply and steadily Duncan has looked at his world, and how much of it he has made ours."

**Evelyn Duncan, B.A. '47, M.A. '55**, has written *Picking Up*, a book of poems ranging from accounts of the poet's childhood and family life during the Depression to commentaries on the world's peculiarities. There are touches of nostalgia and humor expressed in plain language and open forms. Included are such subjects as Jean Harlow, Dada, a magician, old lovers, and a suckling pig. A retired middle and high school English teacher, Duncan also taught at Russell Sage College Evening Division and at SUNY Oneonta. Her works have been published in numerous magazines, including *The New Yorker* and *The Saturday Review*.

*What Gets Lost*, the first poetry collection by **Doris Hagen Henderson, B.A. '54**, is available at [www.antrimHouseBooks.com](http://www.antrimHouseBooks.com). A former teacher and theatre coach, Henderson sees poetry as a performance art. Her work has been published in many

journals and anthologies, and as three chapbooks: *Transformations*, *Leaving the Plaza* and *Distances*. Henderson lives in Danbury, Conn., where she attends workshops with writer friends, does freelance editing, and serves as president of the Danbury chapter of the Connecticut Poetry Society.

**John Cooper, B.A. '54**, has published *Wit's Voices: Intonation in Seventeenth-Century English Poetry*. This work shows how 17th-century English lyric poets were able to control the way their poetry sounded when read aloud, and thus influence emotional force and meaning. Now retired from teaching at Portland State University, Cooper enjoys retirement, traveling and his one and only grandchild, Samantha Cooper-Gross.

**Patricia Jewell McAlexander, B.A. '64**, co-edited *Basic Writing in America: The History of Nine College Programs*. McAlexander also wrote the book's chapter on the University of Georgia, *The Evolution of a Division: Basic Writing at the University of Georgia* and its preface; she also co-authored the introduction. The book focuses on the basic writing programs of nine four-year colleges and universities and shows that, while many of these programs have been eliminated or downsized, others, especially those which have expanded their mission, are surviving and successful. McAlexander retired last fall from teaching at the University of Georgia.

**Henrietta Roginski, M.L.S. '65**, has produced a video of her children's book, *Penrod, The Dancing Emperor Penguin*. Roginski, a former English teacher and school librarian, wrote and illustrated *Penrod*, which featured a penguin and his adventures on an ice floe in Antarctica.

**Larry Epstein, B.A. '67, M.A. '68, Ph.D. '76**, has a new book, *Political Folk Music in America From Its Origins to Bob Dylan*. Many American folk singers have striven to leave their world a better place by writing songs of social protest. Musicians like Woody Guthrie, Lead Belly, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and Joan Baez sang with fierce moral voices as they tried to relieve human suffering and transform what they saw as an uncaring society. But the personal tales of these guitar-toting idealists were often more tangled than the comparatively pure vision their art would suggest. This provocative work examines both the long tradition of folk music in its American political context and the lives of those troubadours who wrote its most enduring songs. More information: [www.lawrencejepstein.com/folk](http://www.lawrencejepstein.com/folk)

**Joseph Collea Jr., B.A. '69, M.A. '74, C.A.S. '84**, has written *The First Vermont Cavalry in the Civil War, A History*. Participating in 75 major engagements, the regiment was rated one of the conflict's premier cavalry units. Riding Vermont-bred Morgan horses, it successfully battled some of the Confederacy's

most notable commanders. This history explores not only the battles and leaders of the unit, but also has a significant focus on the war and its impact on everyday troopers and their families.

**Mary Fremont Schoenecker, M.S. '70**, has published book two of the Maine Shore Chronicles, *Moonglade*, a compelling romantic suspense story. It is 2007, and a vibrant sense of place continues in the mill towns and Maine shore villages of *Finding Fiona*, where the Chamberlaine and Fontaine families are still mixing it up in this contemporary tale of mayhem and mercy and tender relationships.

**Paul Hepner, B.A. '71**, has written *Rochelle's Champion*. When high fuel prices, gasoline shortages and national chaos hold America hostage, a new president challenges the population to fight back. An old man and his grandson build a vehicle to compete in a cross-country solar car race pitted against engineers and scientists from the country's most celebrated institutions. The accomplishment, adversity and tragedy that follow make this an appealing and timely novel about the conflicting demands of an elderly man's love of family and his nation under duress. *Rochelle's Champion* is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

**Dennis Fried, M.A. '73**, has translated his dog's memoirs from Doggerel into English. Barktated by Genevieve, and

# Authors





published by Simon and Schuster, *Small Dog, Big Life: Memoirs of a Furry Genius* is a biting look at life with humans from the point of view of a brilliant and sarcastic little dog. More information: [www.dogtellsall.com](http://www.dogtellsall.com)

**Richard Lehman, M.B.A. '75**, has published *Far From Random*. Lehman debunks the classical notion of a stock market driven by corporate financials in favor of a market driven as much (or perhaps even more) by human behavior. If that is the case, the stock market may be less random than previously assumed, and may therefore be at least somewhat predictable. Lehman argues that in a behavior-based paradigm, technical (rather than fundamental) analysis is the better tool available for interpreting and forecasting the stock market, and that a modified form of Trend Channel Analysis, in particular, may hold substantial promise in providing practical improvements for stock market investing.

*The Maine Woods*, edited by **Jeffrey Cramer, M.L.S. '78**, has been published in a fully annotated edition. A critically acclaimed expert on Thoreau, Cramer also edited *Walden: A Fully Annotated Edition and I to Myself: An Annotated Selection from the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau*. Cramer is curator of collections at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods.

**Manuel Ossers, M.A. '78, Ph.D. '87**, has published *Estudios sobre la*

*cientística de Juan Bosch*, a revised compilation of 13 of his journal articles and conference papers with a broad range of analysis and themes on the short stories of the last 20 years on the Bosch narrative (1909-2001). The introduction focuses on the literary criticism of the last 20 years on the narrative of Juan Bosch. Ossers' previous book on Bosch, *La expresividad en la científica de Juan Bosch: Análisis estilístico*, is among the first five "Most widely held works about Juan Bosch" according to WorldCat Identities. Ossers currently is a professor of Spanish and Spanish American literature at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Wisconsin.

The first book by **Evan Copp, B.A. '87**, *The Everything Piano Book*, helps the beginner to learn how to select, purchase and play the piano. Copp, a professional pianist and licensed music teacher, has taught music in New York City public schools, in addition to providing private piano lessons. Copp serves as adjunct lecturer for the Music Technology Program at Queensborough Community College, CUNY.

**William Howard, M.A. '84**, has published *The Civil War Memoir of William T. Levey*, based on a New York Civil War soldier's 1904 account of his wartime service. Howard, who has authored several other works on the Civil War, edited and researched the memoir and located some rare photographs of soldiers

who knew Corporal Levey to illustrate the volume. More information: [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com)

**Kara Newman, B.A. '92**, has published her first book, *Spice & Ice*, bringing "hot" drink trends to the home bar with recipes for 60 tongue-tingling drinks that make the most of fresh seasonal ingredients combined with spicy flavorings. As the author of the "High Spirits" column for *Chile Pepper* magazine, Newman is the perfect coach for crafting beverages that bite. She offers spicy spins on classic cocktails, including Wasabi-tinis, Jumpin' Juleps, Blackberry-Poblano Margaritas and Spiced Tangerine Caipirinhas.

**Kazim Ali, B.A. '93, M.A. '95**, has published *Bright Felon*. Ali, an American Muslim of Indian descent, writes of the family history that lends coherence to his being. He delves into the complexities of the religious belief that sustains him in the course of the everyday. In *Bright Felon*, Ali writes of exploring small middle-American towns, of backpacking through European cities and arriving at the resolution that "helpless in a country whose language I could not speak I decided no matter what happened I would never go home." Ali is an assistant professor of creative writing at Oberlin College and teaches in the low-residency M.F.A. program of the University of Southern Maine. He is also one of the founding editors of Nightboat Books.

**Earl Wallace, M.B.A. '00**, has published his first book, *The Three-Dimensional Leader: Negotiating Your Mission, Resources and Context*, which provides a system and scalable template that explains the essential elements of leadership necessary to achieve synergy from human relational processes so organizations thrive. More information: [www.threedimensionalleader.com](http://www.threedimensionalleader.com)

**Neysa Senseing, M.S. '01**, is one of 10 authors presented in the collection *The Refractive Thinker: An Anthology of Higher Learning, Volume III: Change Management*. *The Refractive Thinker* is a publication of The Lentz Leadership Institute. Senseing has authored the chapter "Educational Organizations: Managing Change to Improve Student Learning."

*Prayers of an Abstract Reality* by **Amara Crocoll, B.A. '04**, is a book of poems about nature, abstract reality and beliefs of the meaning of life. These rhythmic and vivid poems transport the reader to a time long ago and back to the present as the reader moves through apocalyptic events, winter storms, deep forests, and dark alleys with the author. Each poem is inspired by its own experience as the author strives to understand her own purpose and to live a life that respects humanity. Crocoll works as an archaeologist.

# & Editors

# Alumni News and Notes

## Deaths

### 1920s

**Margaret Y. Middleton** '29, Jan. 17, 2007

### 1930s

**Wilma Adams Munroe** '30, Aug. 23, 2009  
**Rena Berkowitz** '33, Aug. 21, 2009  
**Catherine L. McGinnis** '33, Aug. 18, 2002  
**Leon P. Rajczewski** '34, March 28, 2008  
**Helen M. Donohue** '35, March 11, 2009  
**Alice Fassett Bostic** '36, April 15, 2009  
**Elbridge M. Smith** '36, Dec. 7, 2008  
**Florence P. Tate** '36, Nov. 29, 2006  
**Elizabeth Scott Ames** '37, Sept. 14, 2009  
**Mary Pratt Lester** '37, April 17, 2009  
**Ruth B. Mitchell** '37, June 14, 2007  
**Elizabeth Strong** '37, May 2, 2009  
**Ida Besdesky** '38, March 7, 2009  
**Leslie J. Knox** '38, Nov. 1, 2009  
**Mary Burlingame Konstanty** '38, April 25, 2007  
**Adelaide E. Schmid** '38, April 7, 2001  
**Anne M. Olsen Seld** '38, Dec. 4, 2009  
**Janet Shoemaker Hessney** '39, June 14, 2008  
**Emily White Heywood** '39, Sept. 3, 2009  
**Charlton G. Schoeffler** '39, April 20, 2008  
**Muriel Barry Smith** '39, Oct. 31, 2009

**Claire Whiting Hunter** '42, Nov. 11, 2009  
**Mauritz S. Johnson** '42, May 16, 2000  
**Henry Kratz** '42, April 14, 2008  
**John R. Tibbetts** '42, Oct. 14, 2006  
**Harry Bora Jr.** '43, Dec. 3, 2007  
**Frances Boyle Hollis** '43, July 31, 2009  
**Mildred Mattice Ledden** '43, March 14, 2008  
**Jack H. Smith** '43, April 12, 2005  
**Osnif Serabian Gallucci** '44, Aug. 21, 2009  
**Katherine Lyons Griffin** '44, Oct. 28, 2009  
**Nancy Wilcox Livingston** '44, July 15, 2009  
**June Carlson Vaughn** '44, Nov. 30, 2009  
**Gertrude Jacobsen Bodwell** '45, May 1, 2008  
**Cecile Goldberger Stolbof** '45, May 5, 2009  
**Kay Hagerty Carroll** '47, Aug. 10, 2007  
**Patricia Fisk Gibbons** '47, Jan. 20, 2009  
**Arthur E. Soderlind** '47, March 28, 2009  
**Margaret C. Smith** '48, March 9, 2009  
**Cathal Halloran Kennedy** '49, Jan. 23, 2007  
**Frances Flanagan Nichols** '49, May 23, 2008  
**Gifford Wingate** '49, Nov. 14, 2001

### 1950s

**William R. Belanger** '50, July 16, 2008  
**Norma Miller Edwards** '50, Jan. 20, 2008  
**Joseph Garcia** '50, Sept. 18, 2009  
**Audrey Eveleigh Stanley** '50, June 20, 2009  
**Jeanette Hatch Jiusto** '51, Nov. 30, 2009  
**Saul Rubenstein** '51, Aug. 20, 2009  
**Norman J. Schramm** '51, April 26, 2009  
**Carol Lebow Weinstein** '51, Sept. 6, 2009  
**Paul H. Wilbur** '51, Feb. 8, 2009  
**Mitchell R. Burkowsky** '52, March 9, 2000  
**Arnold Dansky** '52, Oct. 30, 2009  
**Muriel A. Dessimoz** '52, Sept. 6, 2007  
**H. Donald Smith** '52, June 3, 2009  
**Thomas P. Benenati** '53, Dec. 4, 2009  
**Francis A. Fay** '53, Aug. 17, 2009  
**Ruth Hulett Griffiths** '53, Feb. 17, 2007  
**Roderick A. Hilsinger** '53, Dec. 29, 2000  
**Margaret L. Huffmire** '53, Oct. 17, 2008  
**Mary-Edna Boynton VanBlarcom** '53, Feb. 1, 2006  
**Donald F. Favreau** '54, July 16, 2002  
**Donald M. Krug** '54, Nov. 3, 2008  
**Cartha Kriebel Coonley** '57, July 8, 2009  
**Robert Stimson** '57, April 20, 2009  
**Nancy Kittlaus Tobler** '58, Feb. 15, 2000  
**Maurice Bouvier** '59, June 9, 2008  
**Sharon Robbins Clark** '59, Nov. 1, 2009  
**Janice Manning Jones** '59, Dec. 7, 2007  
**Joann Truby Waite** '59, July 21, 2009

### 1960s

**Rodney A. Hart** '60, Feb. 13, 2001  
**Maureen Kennedy Mills** '60, May 2, 2008  
**Evelyn W. Keller** '61, April 21, 2009  
**L. Barbara Jacobson Regent** '61, March 20, 2009  
**William Thompson** '61, July 5, 2007  
**Richard I. Wolf** '62, June 10, 2000  
**Susan Gersten Cohen** '63, Oct. 13, 2009  
**Ursula Anker Hatfield Poland** '63, Oct. 5, 2009  
**Lois Gianini Legg** '64, June 28, 2008  
**Barbara Townsend Lilga** '65, June 11, 2009  
**Bernard K. Johnpoll** '66, Oct. 19, 2006  
**William S. Norton** '67, Oct. 8, 2009  
**Patricia Heines Kissane** '68, June 26, 2007  
**Josephine D'Angelico** '69, May 30, 2009  
**Kathryn H. Dougherty** '69, March 21, 2009

### 1970s

**Mary P. Clist** '70, April 24, 2008  
**Robert F. Migliorato** '70, May 5, 2009  
**Virginia K. Phelps** '70, May 13, 2008  
**Dell N. Thompson** '70, Nov. 15, 2009  
**Judith E. Adrezin** '71, Dec. 18, 2008  
**Lia M. Catalano** '71, April 1, 2008  
**William J. Gregg** '71, Dec. 6, 2008  
**Eila Siren Perlmutter** '71, June 12, 2000  
**Barbara Gaspar Sharpley** '71, Oct. 6, 2006  
**Constance Elbrecht Ebner** '72, May 12, 2009  
**Philip P. Ellis** '72, Nov. 10, 2000  
**Bobby L. Helm** '72, Nov. 8, 2006  
**Ursula M. Kirk** '72, Feb. 28, 2009  
**Younghoon Lee** '72, Sept. 2, 2000  
**Peter P. Mumford** '72, Aug. 10, 2009  
**Paul L. Solomon** '72, Feb. 12, 2009  
**John P. Dornbush** '73, July 8, 2009  
**Lew Shaw** '73, Dec. 2, 2000  
**Francis X. Strasser** '73, March 24, 2009  
**John P. Stricos** '73, Nov. 17, 2008  
**Alfred H. Degraff** '74, June 26, 2009  
**Richard Ely** '74, Oct. 20, 2009  
**Deborah Bowers Hayes** '74, Nov. 18, 2009  
**Helen Ivanyshyn Triantafillou** '74, Aug. 3, 2001  
**Elizabeth O. Bassey** '75, Oct. 3, 2002  
**Katie Friedland Goldberg** '75, Feb. 20, 2007  
**Clifford R. Kline** '75, Dec. 12, 2008  
**Debra Backer Berson** '76, July 14, 2008  
**Curtis L. Clark** '76, July 12, 2000  
**Merril Goldberger Gillingham** '76, Nov. 23, 2008  
**Marie C. Kaszuba** '76, June 12, 2002  
**Anne H. Keily** '76, April 13, 2009  
**David A. Dumont** '77, Dec. 6, 2001

**Mary E. Fifield Farina** '77, July 16, 2009  
**William J. Jordan** '77, July 21, 2000  
**Frank C. Steiner** '77, Sept. 14, 2000  
**Dorothy K. Dietrich** '78, April 1, 2009  
**Debra L. Hamilton** '78, Jan. 12, 2009  
**Kathleen A. Queally Toher** '78, Aug. 27, 2009  
**Robert M. Velez** '78, March 29, 2009  
**Carmen M. Cornute** '79, June 28, 2009  
**Michael B. Dufour** '79, Feb. 20, 2009  
**Karl D. Nelson** '79, Aug. 17, 2002  
**Elaine Sexton-Houck** '79, Nov. 23, 2006  
**Kurt D. Trolenberg** '79, Nov. 12, 2008

### 1980s

**Stuart C. Gruskin** '80, May 1, 2009  
**Steven M. Oringer** '80, Nov. 18, 2008  
**Janet Aldridge Bozzi** '81, Jan. 1, 2009  
**Joan E. Heaphy** '81, Oct. 12, 2007  
**Mary Magers Larsen** '81, Sept. 3, 2000  
**Nancy L. Halloran** '83, Feb. 8, 2009  
**Mary Ellen Murphy Lawlor** '83, Aug. 8, 2008  
**Andrew M. Buchan** '84, Sept. 30, 2006  
**Kathy A. Kaiser** '84, March 14, 2008  
**Gregory D. Peterson** '84, June 22, 2002  
**Ann B. Wuerslin** '88, May 18, 2009  
**Mark A. Brisman** '89, Sept. 11, 2001  
**Roberta J. Hogle** '89, Aug. 20, 2009  
**Sihan Lin** '89, April 26, 2000

### 1990s

**Linda C. Dougherty** '90, Nov. 15, 2006  
**Susan T. Carpenter** '92, Oct. 20, 2007  
**Lynne Murphy** '92, April 28, 2009  
**Myron M. Smith** '92, March 6, 2002  
**Daryl E. Farley** '93, Oct. 31, 2009  
**Jeffrey W. Braunstein** '94, Feb. 26, 2008  
**John Russo** '94, Aug. 4, 2009  
**Carol A. Sander** '94, Oct. 9, 2009  
**Susan D. Fiscarelli** '95, Oct. 18, 2001  
**Alfred B. Guyton** '95, Dec. 13, 2003  
**Carol M. Wassel** '95, March 19, 2009  
**William Wasserstrom** '95, July 13, 2009  
**Michael J. Asprien** '96, Sept. 19, 2001  
**Karin M. Huneke** '96, Oct. 30, 2009  
**Jens G. Lobb Jr.** '96, Aug. 7, 2009  
**Glen M. Martin** '97, July 2, 2006  
**Robert A. McDonald** '97, Oct. 29, 2002  
**Karen C. McGovern** '97, May 18, 2000  
**Daniel W. Whelan** '97, May 27, 2009  
**Jason C. Barnhart** '98, Nov. 30, 2005  
**John J. Ingrassia** '98, March 4, 2009  
**Steven N. Wolkoff** '99, June 21, 2008

### 2000s

**Michael Dibenedetto** '01, March 8, 2009  
**Michael D. Glover** '01, Aug. 16, 2006  
**Benita E. Garland** '02, May 3, 2008  
**Charles A. Gill** '02, April 13, 2009  
**George J. Lovell** '02, Nov. 1, 2002  
**John S. McAndrews** '03, April 6, 2006

**Class Councilor  
 Harold Shapiro '36  
 and former  
 Class Councilor  
 Elsie Ferber  
 Freedman '42  
 passed away last fall.  
 The Alumni Association  
 is grateful for their  
 many years of service  
 to their classmates  
 and *alma mater*.**

### 1940s

**Leah Wilkins Hoyt** '40, May 3, 2007  
**Harry Karchmer** '40, June 26, 2009  
**Walter Karpiak** '40, Feb. 1, 2008  
**John W. Walden** '40, Jan. 3, 2009  
**John C. Adam** '41, June 24, 2008  
**Paul E. Grattan** '41, Jan. 6, 2009  
**Alicia Vail Reeve** '41, May 28, 2009  
**Elsie Ferber Freedman** '42, Aug. 19, 2009  
**Eugenie Elswood Gillespie** '42, Jan. 25, 2008



## Murray Reid Blair Jr.

Murray Reid Blair Jr., husband of former University at Albany President Karen R. Hitchcock, passed away Feb. 20 in Albany. He was 81.

A research scientist whose work greatly impacted the fields of medical education and pharmaceutical research, Blair held administrative and teaching posts at Tufts University, the University of Buffalo, the Medical College of Virginia and Texas Tech during his career. As director of research and development at Astra Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., he pioneered several revolutionary techniques for designing, testing and evaluating new local anesthetics and anti-arrhythmic drugs, and introduced pharmacokinetics to the pharmaceutical industry.

In announcing the death to the University community, UAlbany President George M. Philip recalled Blair as "a wonderful advocate for Karen and for the entire University. He was present at countless University functions and always a loyal and enthusiastic Great Dane. He will be remembered for his honesty, his humor and his willingness to express his opinion in lively debate."

Survivors, in addition to Hitchcock, include three children and five grandchildren.

## Faculty/Staff Deceased

**Robert Creegan**, Professor, Philosophy, 1952-1985, Aug. 10, 2000

**Raymond E. Falconer**, Adjunct Research Assistant Professor, Vice President for University Advancement, 1963-2001, Dec. 11, 2001

**Webb S. Fiser, Professor**, Political Science, 1962-1979, July 14, 2009

**Daniel Gatto**, Dec. 31, 2009, Barber, University Auxiliary Services, 1967-2002

**Mary Goggin**, Professor, Classics, 1940-1978, Sept. 6, 2001

**David Hartley**, Professor, Counseling Psychology, 1950-1976, April 20, 2001

**William K. Mulvey**, Director of Instructional Research, Educational Communication Center, 1968-1981, Jan. 29, 2000

**Carl J. Odenkirchen**, Professor, French, 1950-1986, July 9, 2009

**Albert G. Sweetser**, Professor, School of Business, 1967-1985, Aug. 24, 2001

# UAlbany

Here are the best ways to reach us!

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# CALENDAR

<b>MARCH</b>	
25	Syracuse Accepted Student Reception
<b>APRIL</b>	
1	Westchester Accepted Student Reception
24	Spring Stomp Theater Department 100 Anniversary Celebration Residential Life Reunion
25	Fountain Day
<b>MAY</b>	
15-16	Commencement
<b>JUNE</b>	
5-6	Class of 1952 Mini-Reunion
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
TBD	GOLD Event, NYC
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
8-10	GOLD Reunion
8-10	Homecoming, Reunion & Family Weekend

For additional events and details, visit [www.albany.edu/alumni](http://www.albany.edu/alumni).



# The Last Word

By Arthur N. Collins

## Indebted to “a True *Alma Mater*”

The New York State College for Teachers was a true *alma mater* to me. I enrolled as a naive 16-year-old farm boy who used to practice French and Latin by shouting them to the cows I herded a few miles from Cobleskill, N.Y. My education was interrupted by World War II, when I was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force, but I came back to State in Spring 1946 – and graduated with honors as a cultivated citizen.



On the day before graduation, I had secretly married Marion Buetow. The following September, we enrolled at the University of Minnesota, where Marion received her B.A. *summa cum laude* and I won a fellowship that offered \$1,000 and remission of a year's tuition. In 1950, we held English department assistantships, but budget cuts the next year left us with no prospects.

*In addition to the friendships he forged at NYSCT and UAlbany, Arthur N. Collins treasures his Collins Fellowship, his Class of 1952 Excellence in Teaching Award and his Distinguished Service Award (left to right).*

Fate dealt us a good hand, however, when I was invited to teach at State for a year. I readily agreed, and Marion and I returned to Albany. Received back warmly, I taught alongside my favorite professors. I shared an office with Paul Pettit, the new drama teacher, and acted in his summer theatre. Dean Oscar Lanford (who had saved me from failing *Freshman Science* by allowing me to research and make an oral report on something called “radio facsimile” – today known as the fax – about which he professed to know nothing) appointed me Scholarship Committee chair. I was faculty secretary to Signum Laudis and presided over the first Honors Convocations.

I enjoyed teaching. Despite my reputation as a tough grader, my courses were popular; I initially taught classes ranging from freshman writing and speech to short story and modern poetry. Once I had my Ph.D. from Minnesota, my range of courses was extended. Over the years I taught 17 different undergraduate courses and nine different graduate courses. I was invited to teach the first course when the English department developed the inaugural Honors Program, and I taught composition and language to our first exchange students from the Soviet Union. I served on numerous doctoral committees and supervised three Ph.D.

**Professor Emeritus Arthur N. Collins is both a Collins Fellow and a recipient of the University's Distinguished Service Award. Retired from the faculty nearly 25 years ago, he continues to support UAlbany as both volunteer and donor.**

## Arthur N. Collins, Ph.D., B.A.'48

At the New York State College for Teachers, Arthur N. Collins found an extended family. Nearly 70 years later, State's successor institution, the University at Albany, is still a part of his life.

Collins enrolled at State in 1941. Drafted into the military two years later, he returned to college after World War II. While earning a bachelor's in English, he acted in countless plays, did student teaching at Milne High School, worked summers at the New York State Library, and even "helped a little" in the Alumni Association office.

In 1951, Collins returned to State to teach for one year – and remained for 33 more as the college became the University at Albany. He fondly remembers many former colleagues, including Professor of Drama Paul Pettit. Upon learning that Collins' firstborn daughter required a complete blood replacement to survive

hemolytic anemia, "Paul asked his students to go to the hospital and donate blood for her. Edith pulled through and graduated in UAlbany's Class of 1973," recalls Collins.

Such memories have kept Collins "very close" to the University. As a volunteer, he maintains a strong connection with fellow alumni and onetime colleagues. He is also a donor whose generous support includes three charitable gift annuities (CGAs), which will endow the *Arthur N. Collins and Marion B. Collins Fellowship*. Named for the retired professor and his late wife, the endowment "will provide encouragement for a first-year graduate student in the humanities to pursue further study at UAlbany."

For Collins, CGAs are "a great deal": They afford him the opportunity to support future students' academic endeavors – and provide "a modest quarterly supplement" to his income.

dissertations. Until 1985, I was "outside reader" for dissertations written by doctoral students in French.

As NYSCT evolved into the State University of New York at Albany, I served on the Faculty Council, the Committee on the Nature of the University, the University Senate and other major committees. I taught as a Fulbright Professor in Zaire, and later at the universities of Nice and Würzburg. I established the doctor of arts degree in New York State. I was honored to speak for the faculty at the Collins Circle dedication and during the eulogy for former University President Evan R. Collins. Alumni Association members have elected me to their board for five consecutive terms.

There are debts one cannot repay. I feel fortunate, therefore, to be able to declare here my indebtedness to both NYSCT and UAlbany.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

In this time of financial uncertainty, many people seek a safe harbor – a place where their money will be secure and they will receive a reasonable return. One option to consider under these circumstances is a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with The University at Albany Foundation (Foundation).

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THE WORLD WITHIN REACH



Save the date and join us as we celebrate Homecoming/Family and Reunion Weekend.

**Oct. 8-10, 2010**

Classes of 2000, 1985, 1970, 1960, 1955 and 1950 will commemorate their reunions.

Middle Earth will mark its 40th anniversary with a special celebration. GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decades) will also hold its third annual reunion.

The three-day weekend has something for everyone. Whether it's football, the spirited tailgate, 5K run, sorority coffee hours, the wine tasting, the Great Danes Great Bash, the Legacy reception, building tours, or academic and sporting events, we'll give you plenty of reasons to come back to UAlbany.

Be sure to mark your calendars! Visit [www.albany.edu/alumni/homecoming10.php](http://www.albany.edu/alumni/homecoming10.php) for details.

# HOMECOMING/FAMILY & Reunion Weekend



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
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